



IF HAL JORDAN DIES...WHO WILL
BE THE NEW GREEN LANTERN?

ACTION

COMICS® WEEKLY

NO. 642

\$1.50

CAN \$1.85

U.K. 60p



ROSS ANDRU/
ERIC SHANDOWER

Chapter I: **THE DECISION**

THE WILL IS
VERY LIKE A
MUSCLE.

IN ABIN SUR, THAT
MUSCLE WAS ONCE
EXTRAORDINARILY
STRONG--

--SO STRONG THAT THE
GUARDIANS OF THE
UNIVERSE MADE HIM
CUSTODIAN OF A BATTERY
OF POWER, AN AMPLIFIER
OF THE WILL...

...AND OF A POWER RING,
A DEVICE TO FOCUS THAT
AMPLIFIED WILL.

MY
SUCCESSOR
WILL BE
ABSOLUTELY
WITHOUT
FEAR.

FIND MY
SUCCESSOR.

HE HAS BEEN A GREEN
LANTERN, A MEMBER
OF A CORPS
MILLIONS OF YEARS
OLD...

...CHARGED WITH
PROTECTING THE
ORDER THAT
ALLOWS LIFE IN
THE UNIVERSE
TO GROW.

ON THIS DAY SOME YEARS PAST,
ABIN SUR, GREEN LANTERN OF
SECTOR 2814, DIED.

WHAT KILLED HIM
WAS LACK OF WILL.



I AM
ABIN
SUR.

I REPRESENT
THE GUARDIANS OF
THE UNIVERSE AND
WE HAVE BUSINESS
TO TRANSACT...
CLARK KENT.

YOU'RE...
INJURED.
LET ME
HELP YOU.

WHERE
THERE IS
A WILL!!!

WRITTEN BY ELLIOT S. MAGGIN. ART BY GIL KANE. STEVE DITKO AND ART THIBERT.
JIM APARO AND JOHN NYBERG. CURT SWAN AND TY TEMPLETON. JIM MOONEY
AND AKIN AND GARVEY. CARMINE INFANTINO AND KEVIN NOWLAN.
COLORS BY GLENN WHITMORE. LETTERS BY JOHN B. WORKMAN, JR.
EDITED BY MARK WAID AND BRIAN AUGUSTYN

YOU CANNOT HELP.
I AM DYING, BUT
I NEED TO APPOINT
MY SUCCESSOR.

I'M SURE
I CAN HELP
HERE...

DO YOU
NOT UNDER-
STAND? I HAVE
DECIDED I
AM DYING--

YES, I CAN
SEE YOUR
MUSCULATURE.

THERE'S A
CLOT OF
MUSCLE TISSUE
CAUGHT ON
SOME BROKEN
BONE HERE,
AND...

I AM
DYING.
I HAVE
DEC--

...THIS
SHOULD
DO IT.

--UNHH.

PAIN.
NO MORE
PAIN.

I
KNOW.

I CAN
THINK CLEARLY
NOW. I AM STILL
DYING.

YES, BUT NOT
AS PAINFULLY.
NOW, WHAT IS
THIS BUSINESS
OF OURS?

YOU ARE
OF A SPECIES
...NOT NATIVE
TO THIS SPACE
SECTOR. YOU ARE
...KRYPTONIAN.
DID MANY OF
YOU MIGRATE
HERE...?

NO, THE OTHER
HUMANOID'S HERE
ARE BORN AND
BRED. I'M JUST
BRED.

YOU DO NOT
QUALIFY TO BE
MY SUCCESSOR...
GUARDIAN LAW
REQUIRES A
NATIVE.

PLEASE...
YOU MUST SUBMIT
TO LOSS OF MEMORY
OF THIS ENCOUNTER.
I FEAR I NO LONGER
POSSESS SUFFICIENT
WILL TO IMPOSE
IT.



WHA--?

MY RING
SHOWS YOU
ARE WISER
THAN YOU
APPEAR AND
PERCEPTIVE
OF THE
WAYS OF
THE NATIVE
BEINGS...

I MUST GRANT
ONE EARTH CREATURE
GREAT POWER. ALL
WHO MIGHT QUALIFY
ARE HUMANS.

THEIR IMAGES
ARE OUTSIDE
MY CRAFT.

I KNOW
SOME OF
THESE GUYS...
KNOW OF
MOST OF THE
OTHERS.

A PANTHEON
OF HEROES
AND HEROES-
IN-WAITING!



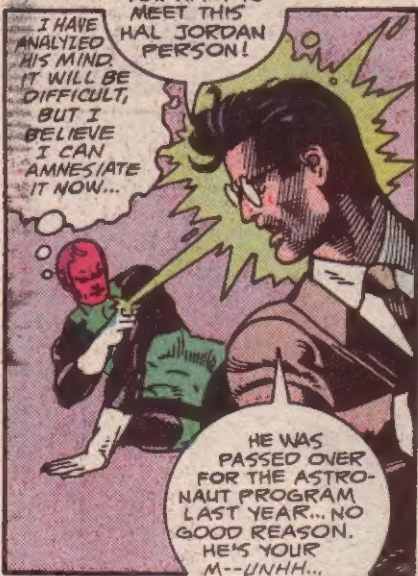
THREE TEENAGERS...
TWO OLDER MEN...
THREE CLERGYMEN...
NO WOMEN. MY
FIRST GUESS...

...IS THAT
ABIN SUR
OR THESE
GUARDIANS
HE RE-
PRESENTS
HAVE AN
ATTITUDE
PROBLEM.

I INTERVIEWED
THIS GUY... JORDAN.
HAL JORDAN.
TALK ABOUT HEROES-
IN-WAITING.

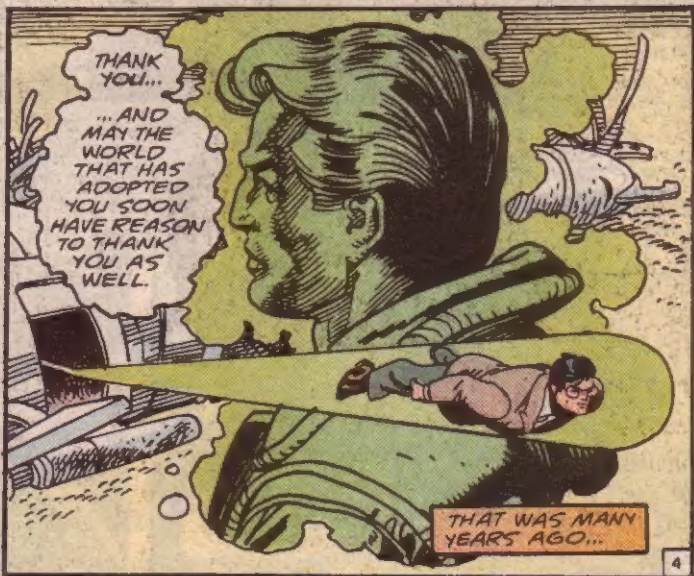
TEST PILOT...
OPEN... HONEST.
REALLY HONEST.
THE STRAIGHTEST
ARROW I EVER MET.

ABIN SUR!
YOU WANT TO
MEET THIS
HAL JORDAN
PERSON!



I HAVE
ANALYZED
HIS MIND.
IT WILL BE
DIFFICULT,
BUT I
BELIEVE
I CAN
AMNESIATE
IT NOW...

HE WAS
PASSED OVER
FOR THE ASTRO-
NAUT PROGRAM
LAST YEAR... NO
GOOD REASON.
HE'S YOUR
M--UNHH...

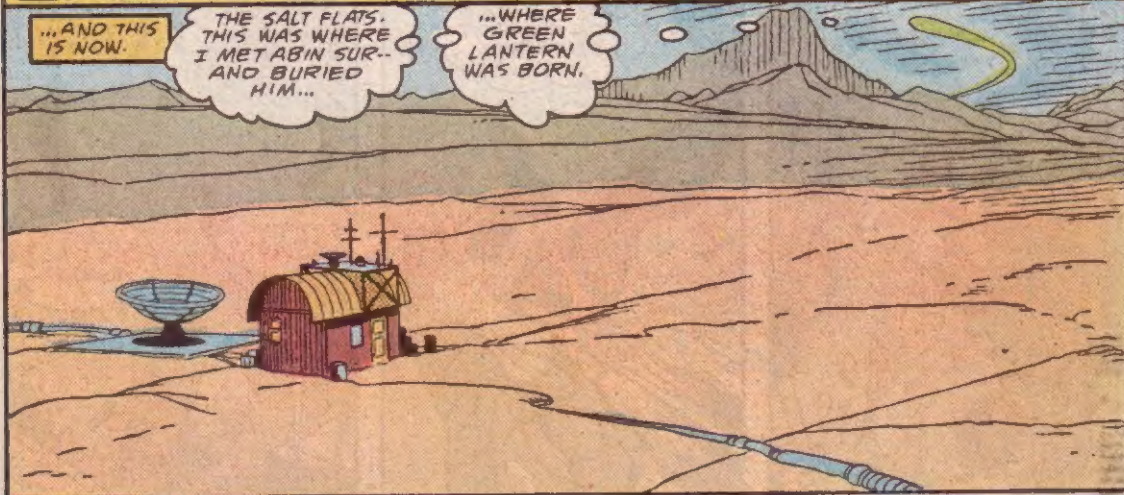


THANK
YOU...

...AND
MAY THE
WORLD
THAT HAS
ADOPTED
YOU SOON
HAVE REASON
TO THANK
YOU AS
WELL.

THAT WAS MANY
YEARS AGO...

CHAPTER II - THE DECLINE



...AND THIS IS NOW.

THE SALT FLATS. THIS WAS WHERE I MET ABIN SUR-- AND BURIED HIM...

...WHERE GREEN LANTERN WAS BORN.



THERE IT IS...
...SOMETHING STINKS IN THE STATE OF UTAH.

HIGH ABOVE THE GREAT MOONSCAPE OF NORTHERN UTAH--



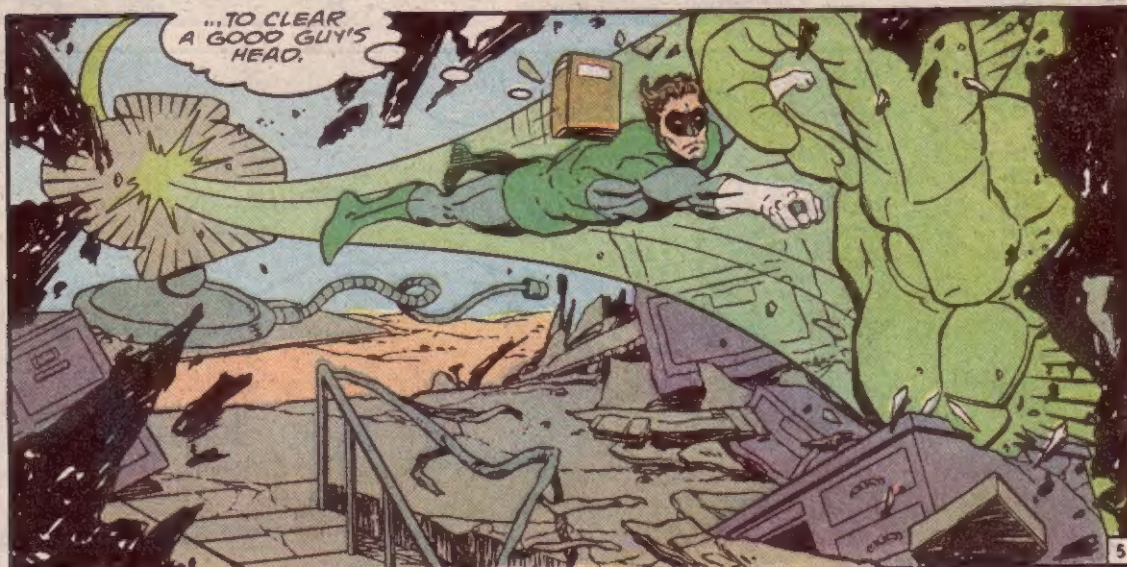
--THE CUSTODIAN OF THE POWER BATTERY ASSIGNED TO SECTOR 2814 BEGINS A DESCENT...

SOMEBODY'S BEEN STEALING AND WAREHOUSING FISSION-ABLE NUCLEAR MATERIAL UP HERE...

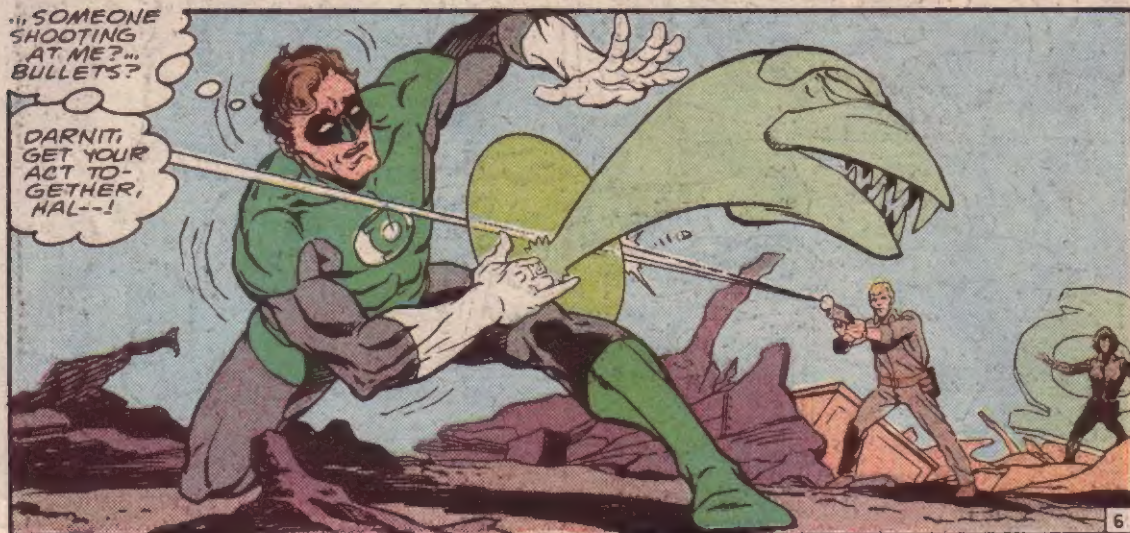
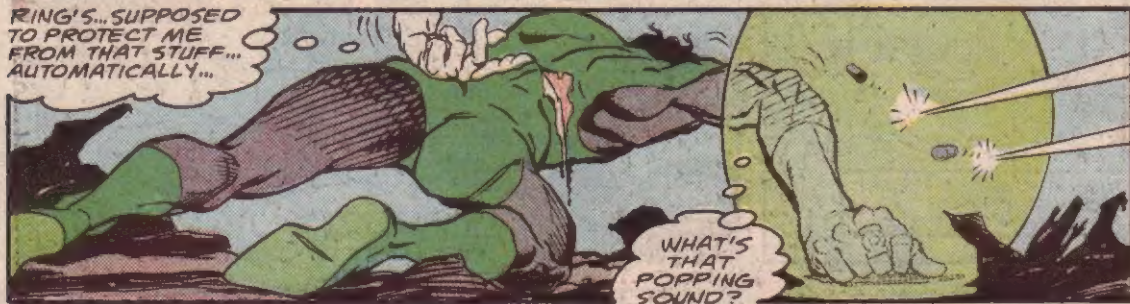
...AND THAT LEAVES ME IN NO MOOD FOR SUBTLETY.

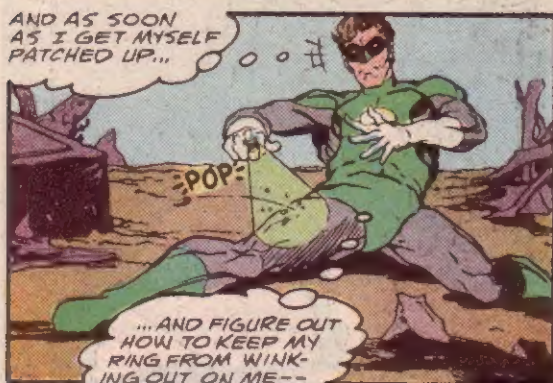
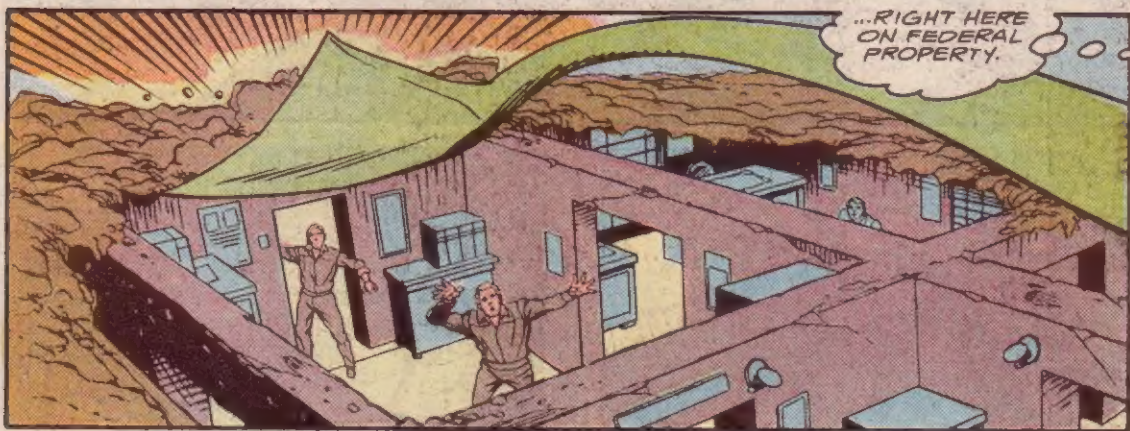
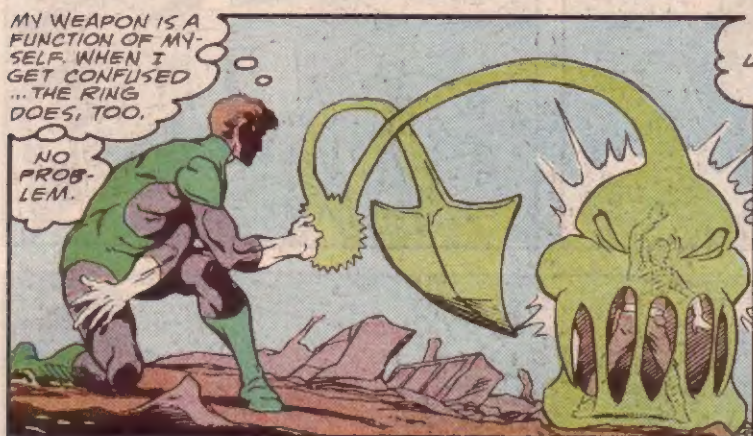


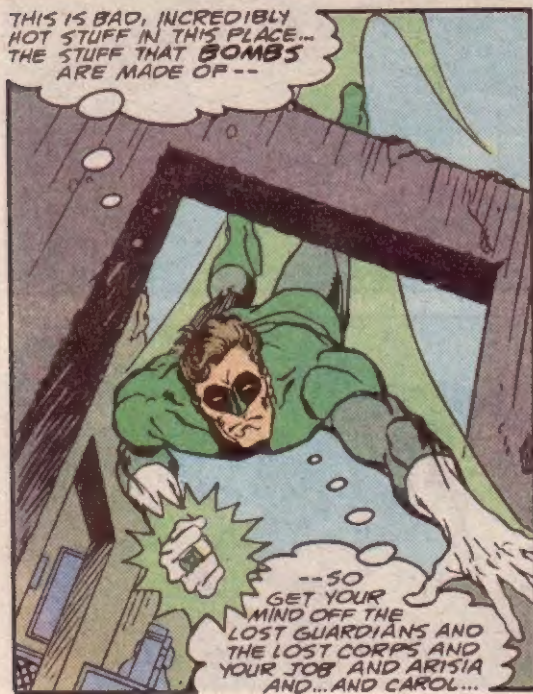
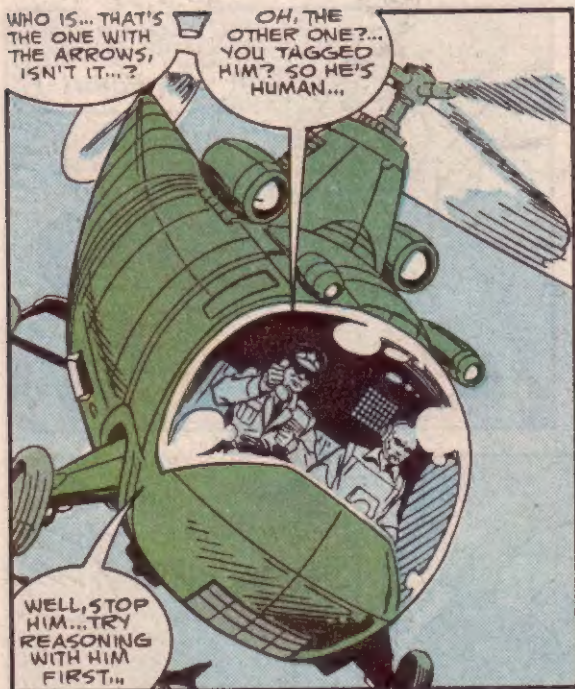
MY LIFE'S A BLEEDING MESS--
--AND THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD KNOCK-OUT BETWEEN THE GOOD GUYS AND THE BAD GUYS...

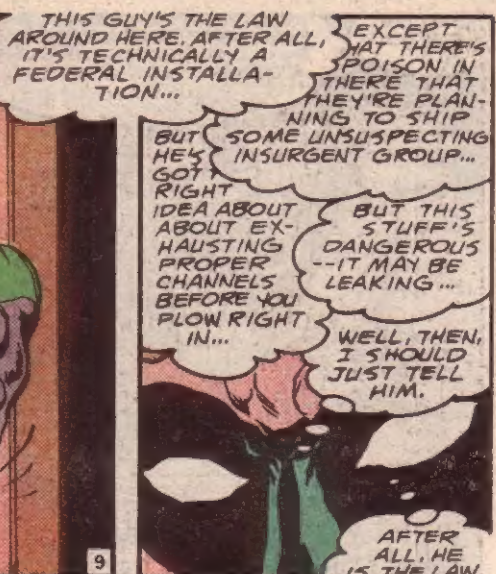


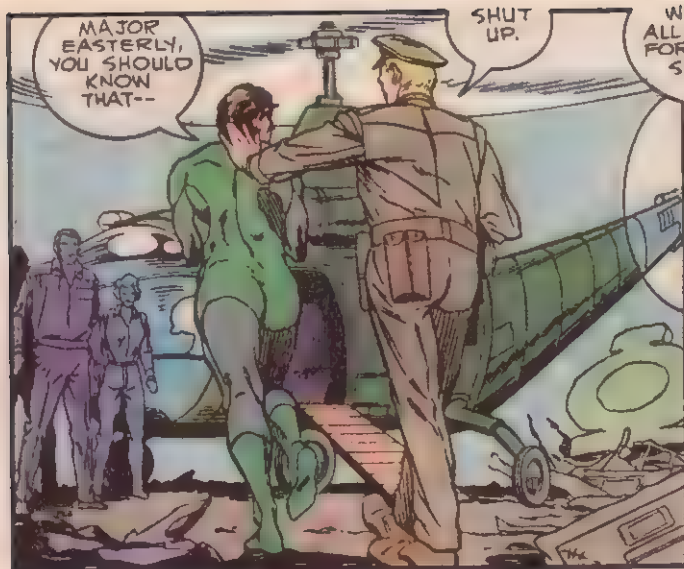
...TO CLEAR A GOOD GUY'S HEAD.











MAJOR EASTERLY, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT--

SHUT UP.

WHAT ARE YOU ALL STANDING THERE FOR? WE'VE GOT A SCHEDULE TO MEET.

SIR, THERE IS THE POTENTIAL HERE FOR NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL.



ARE YOU FOR REAL?



I AM SHOCKED... SHOCKED TO FIND THAT THERE IS NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL GOING ON HERE!

YOUR PLUTONIUM, SIR?

PILE IT UP IN THERE.



OH, THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

ALL RIGHT, SO HE'S AN OFFICER, BUT--



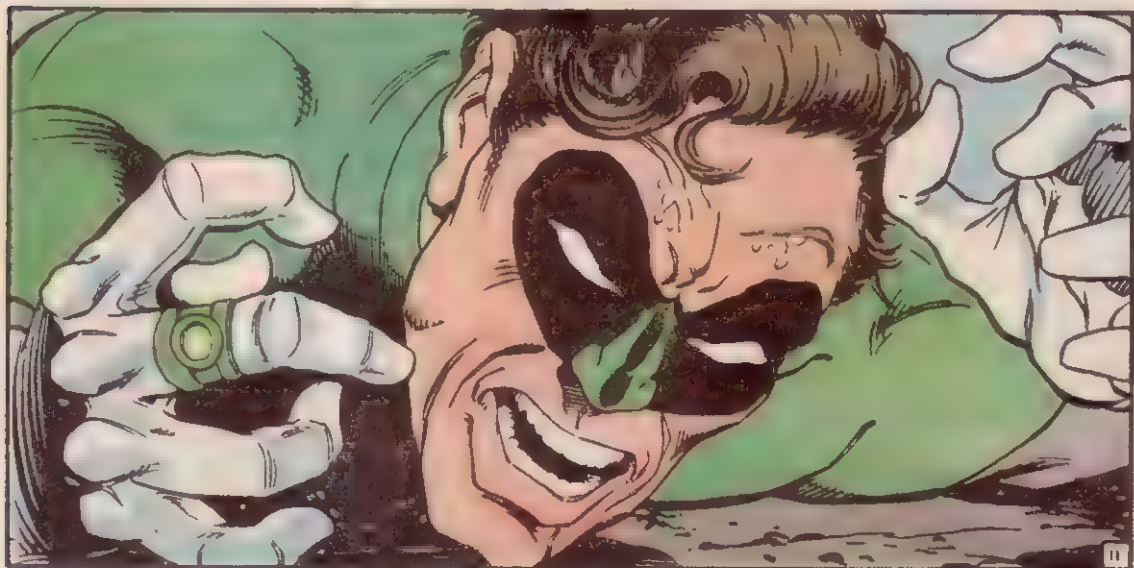
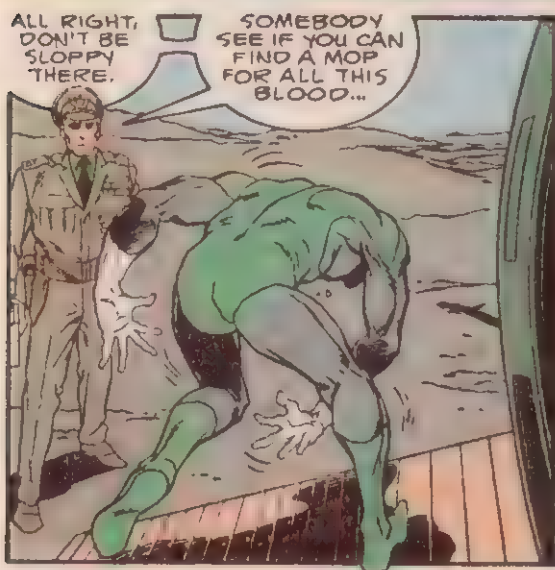
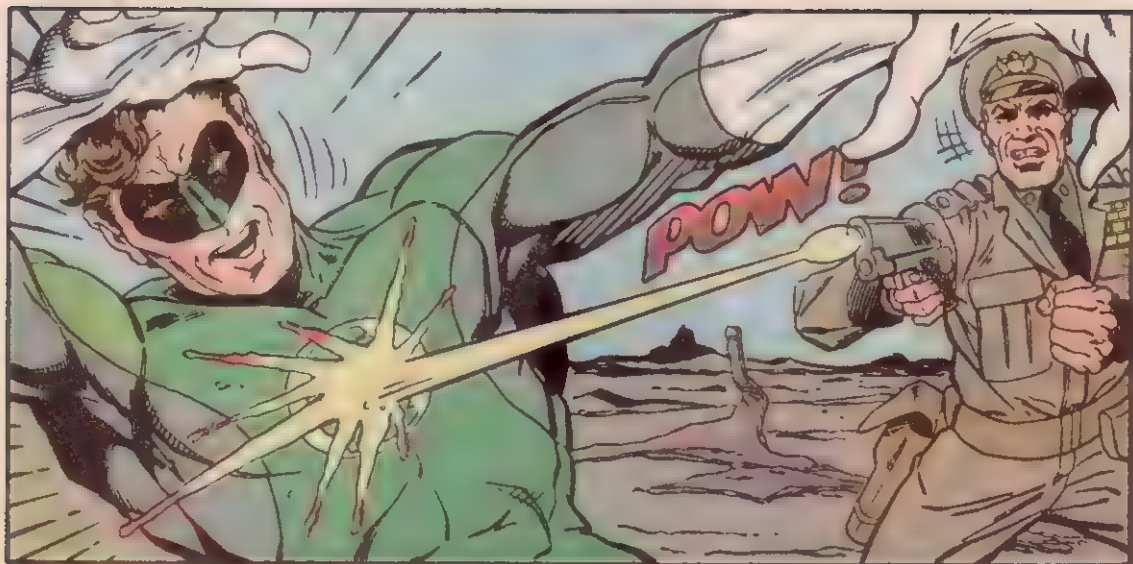
--ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

YOU PEOPLE ARE ALL IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, AS WELL AS IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL STATUTES. NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST--

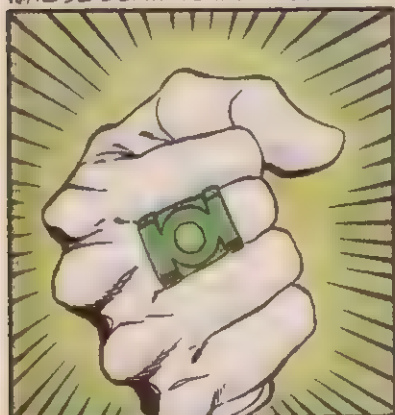
--STEP AWAY FROM THOSE CANNISTERS AND ALLOW ME TO SCAN YOU FOR RADIATION EXPOSURE LEVELS...

...I'M SURE WE CAN SEE ABOUT A SPEEDY...

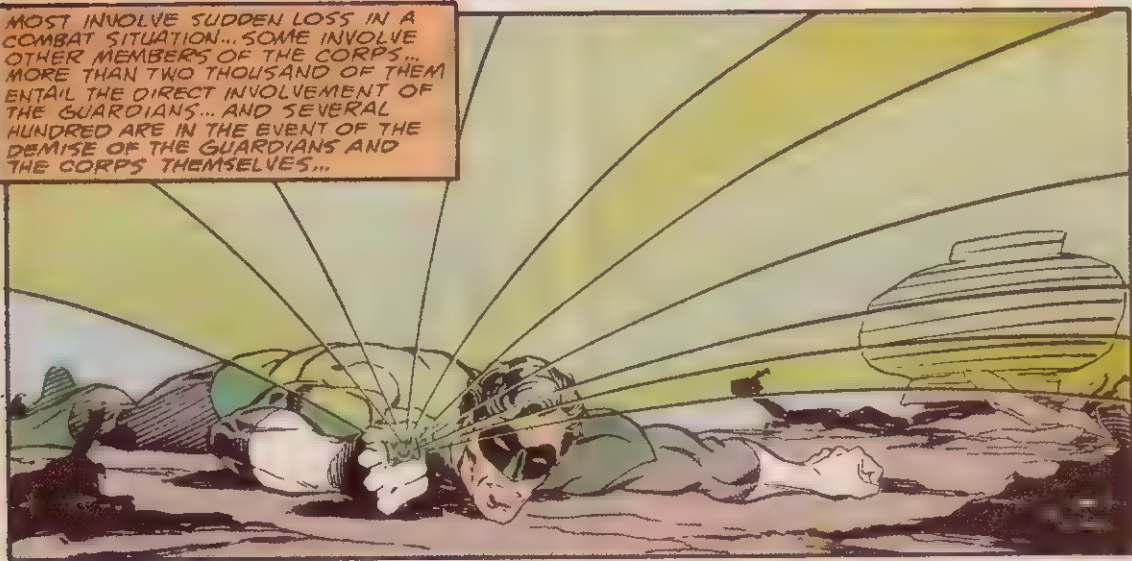




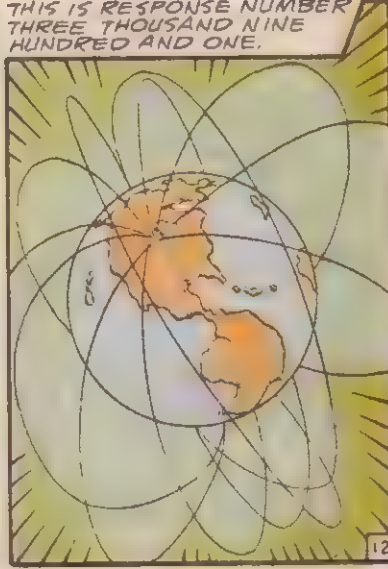
NUMBERED IN ORDER OF DECREASING LIKELIHOOD, THERE ARE FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE POSSIBLE PROGRAMMED RESPONSES FOR A POWER RING IN THE POSSESSION OF A GREEN LANTERN WHOSE DEATH IS IMMINENT...



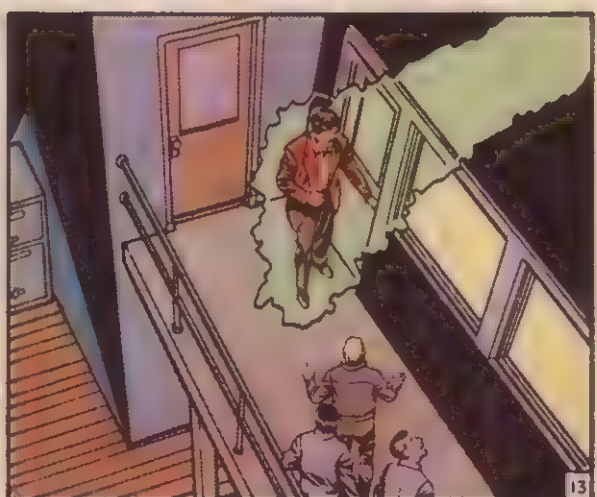
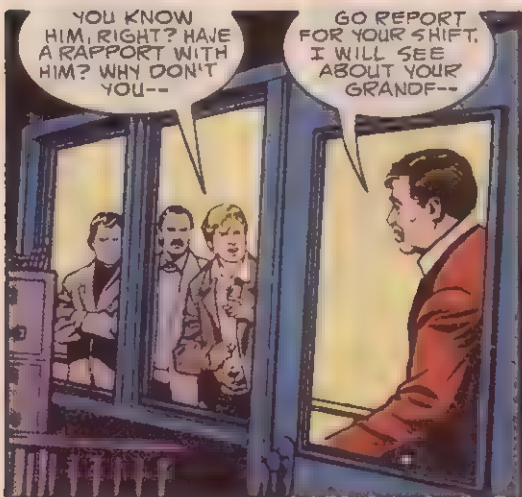
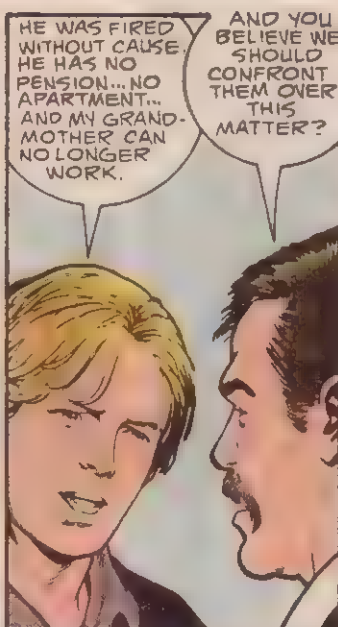
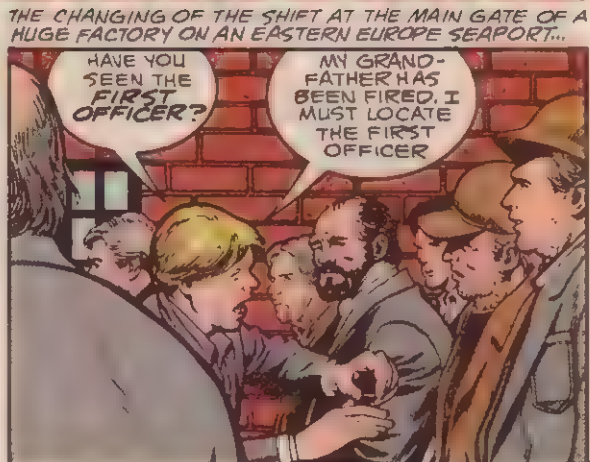
MOST INVOLVE SUDDEN LOSS IN A COMBAT SITUATION... SOME INVOLVE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CORPS... MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND OF THEM ENTAIL THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE GUARDIANS... AND SEVERAL HUNDRED ARE IN THE EVENT OF THE DEMISE OF THE GUARDIANS AND THE CORPS THEMSELVES...



THIS IS RESPONSE NUMBER THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND ONE.



CHAPTER III: THE SUMMONING



BROAD DAYLIGHT IN A PARTICULARLY VIRULENT PUSTULE EMBEDDED IN THE UNDERBELLY OF THE NATION'S LARGEST CITY...



DO WE NEGOTIATE...

RRRRRRE



...OR DO WE FIGHT?

NOTHIN' TO NEGOTIATE.



THIS STREET WAS OURS WHEN YOU WERE ALL SUCKING YOUR MAMAS' MILK...

... AND BELIEVE ME, IT TASTED AWFUL FINE.

IGNORE HIM, MEN.



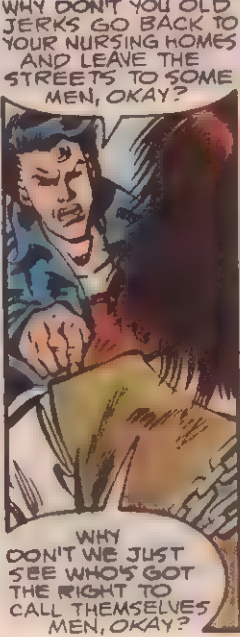
WE AGREED NO WEAPONS. WHAT DO YOU CALL THOSE CHAINS AND KNUCKLES?

REGULATION UNIFORMS...



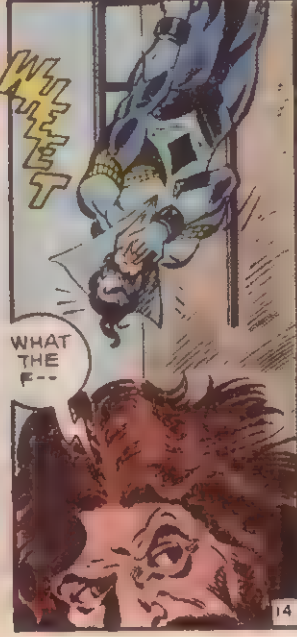
COME IN HANDY WHEN THERE ARE PUNKS AROUND SLIPPING POKERS OUT OF THEIR DIAPERS.

REGULATION DIAPERS.



WHY DON'T YOU OLD JERKS GO BACK TO YOUR NURSING HOMES AND LEAVE THE STREETS TO SOME MEN, OKAY?

WHY DON'T WE JUST SEE WHO'S GOT THE RIGHT TO CALL THEMSELVES MEN, OKAY?

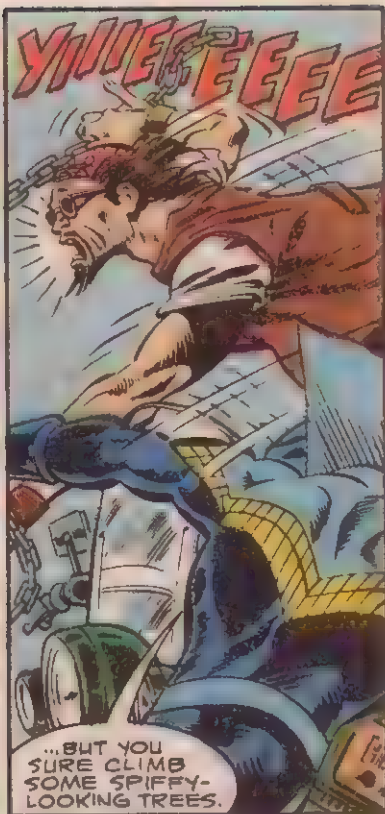


WHEEET

WHAT THE F--

GEEZ, APES ARE
DRESSING IN FUNNY
CLOTHES THESE
DAYS...

...AND
CALLING THEM-
SELVES BY
FUNNY NAMES--
MEN?...

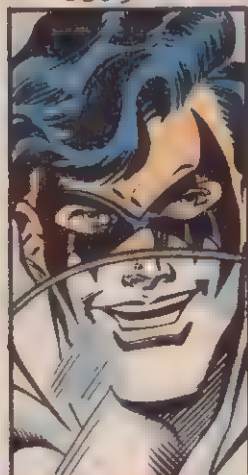


AN EVER-
GREEN
HARLEY
WITH A
WIDE
TRUNK.
I LIKE
IT.

THIS CLOWN
TALKS TOO MUCH.
HE SHOULD BE
EASY TO TAKE
DOWN.

DO
HIM.

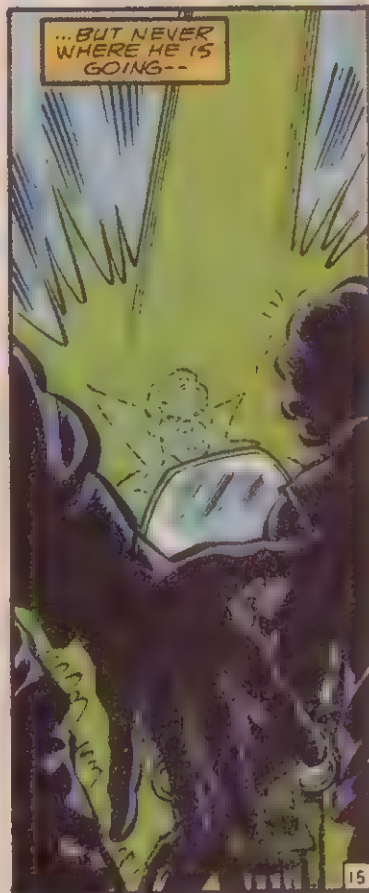
NIGHTWING HAS
FOUND HIS ELEMENT
...VICIOUS COMBAT
AGAINST INCREDIBLE
ODDS--



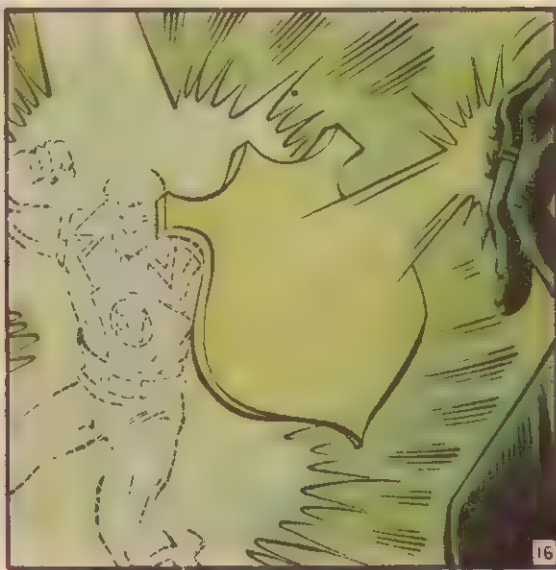
-- WHERE, BY
MAKING HIM-
SELF THE
COMMON
ENEMY, HE
CAN AVERT
TWO ENEMIES'
MUTUAL
DESTRUCTION.

MANY TIMES
HAS HE BEEN
HERE...

...BUT NEVER
WHERE HE IS
GOING--



ON AN OTHERWISE DESERTED BAY PIER A FEW MILES NORTH OF LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA WHERE THE HOUR IS A SHADE BEFORE DAWN...



AT A NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH IN A SEGREGATED TOWNSHIP ON A SOUTHERN-HEMISPHERE CAPE...

I'M SURE
THOSE TWO
ARE MY ONLY
SURVEILLANCE...

...AND MY
AMERICAN
JOURNALIST
FRIEND WILL BE
LEAVING THE
COUNTRY
TOMORROW
MORNING--

--SO MY
COUNSEL WOULD
BE TO TAKE
A CHANCE
ON IT.

I HAVE
THE VIDEO-
TAPE, YOUR
EMINENCE...

...RIGHT HERE
IN MY ROBE. WE
WERE UNABLE TO
MAKE ANOTHER
COPY BEFORE
THEY CONFIS-
CATED THE
RECORDER

YOU HAVE
MY WORD THAT
I WILL DO ALL
I CAN...

ARCH-
BISHOP, DID
YOU SEE THE
VANDALISM TO
THE CHURCH?

YOUR
EMINENCE,
DID YOU
SPEAK WITH
THE LOCAL
LEADERS?

LET THE
MAN OUT OF
THE CAR
FIRST,
PLEASE.

CAN YOU
MAKE A
STATEMENT,
SIR?

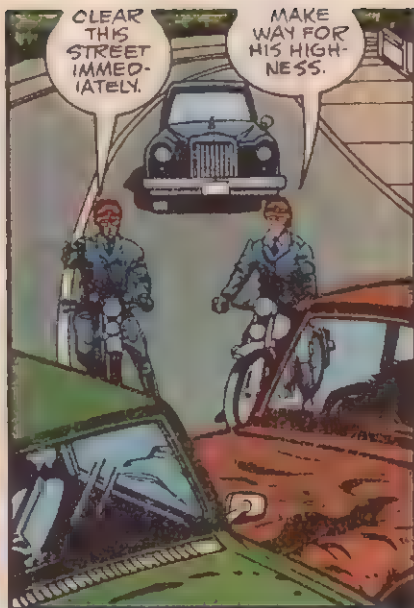
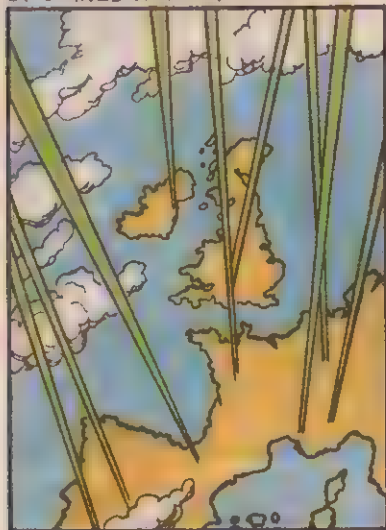
YOU KNOW
THAT I AM
CONSTRAINED
BY GOVERN-
MENT DECREE
FROM TALKING
ABOUT MY
TRAVELS...

...ALTHOUGH
I UNDERSTAND
YOU WILL BE
GOING HOME
TOMORROW, MR.
GAINSBOROUGH.

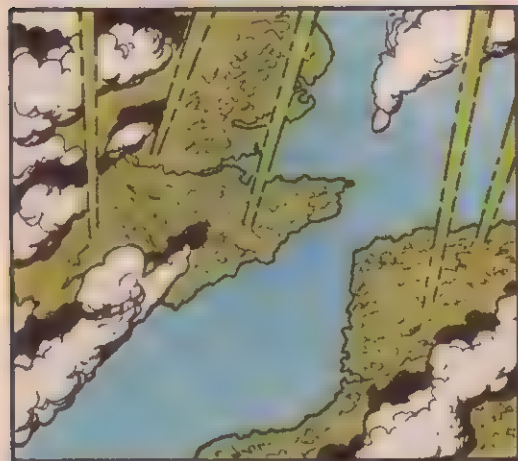
YES, SIR...
BUT ABOUT
THE VILLAGE...

WE
WILL
MISS
YOU.

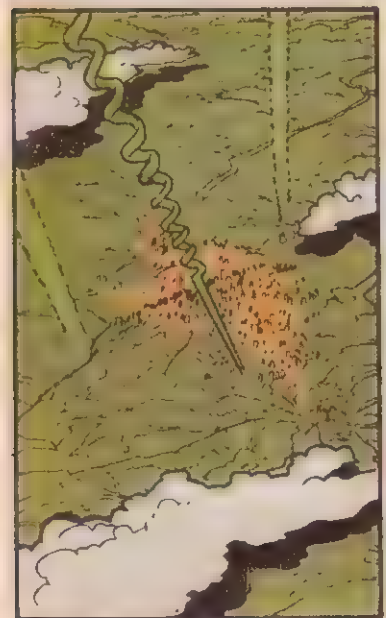
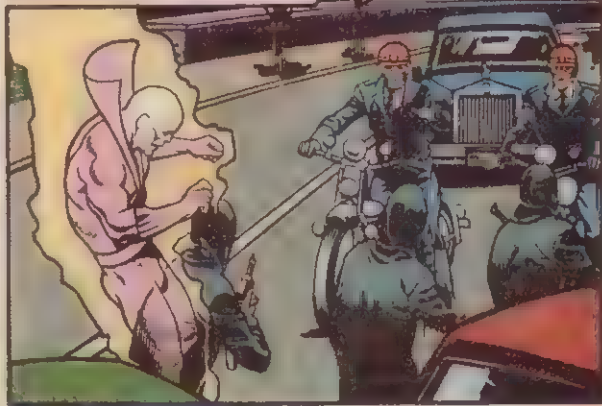
HIGH IN THE SKY ABOVE THE NORTH SEA, DOZENS OF POWER RING EMISSARIES SEARCH FOR TRACES OF BEINGS WITHOUT FEAR...



...AND FOR A TIME IT SEEMS THERE ARE NO SUCH CREATURES HERE--



--UNTIL A CONSCIOUSNESS THAT IS NO LONGER QUITE HUMAN IMPOSES ITSELF ON THE PARTICULARLY CRAVEN WILL OF ANOTHER...



I WISH I COULD THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO KEEP THIS THING FROM HAPPENING...

...BUT IF I'M DAMNING MYSELF, AT LEAST MAYBE I'M DOING THESE TORTURED SOULS A FAVOR--



IN THE NORTHERN LANDS WHERE
ONCE SITTING BULL AND CRAZY
HORSE DREAMED OF AN
HONORABLE MYSTICAL KING-
DOM OF THE DAKOTA NATION...

THIS IS THE
WAY MORNING
REALLY FEELS,
DAVY. GOOD,
HUH?

GOOD
BUT C-C-COLD,
GRANDPA
RUFUS.

LIKE I SAID
THE WAY IT'S
SUPPOSED TO FEEL.

OKAY, TODAY'S
FIRST LESSON IS
FROM MY OLD
SECRET SERVICE
SURVIVAL
TRAINING...

...TAKE A GOOD
DEEP BREATH
BEFORE YOU
WALK OUT OF
CAMP. SMELL
THE AIR.

YOU NEVER
KNOW WHAT
YOU MIGHT
BE DOWN-
WIND OF.

ALL CLEAR,
GRANDPA
RUFUS.

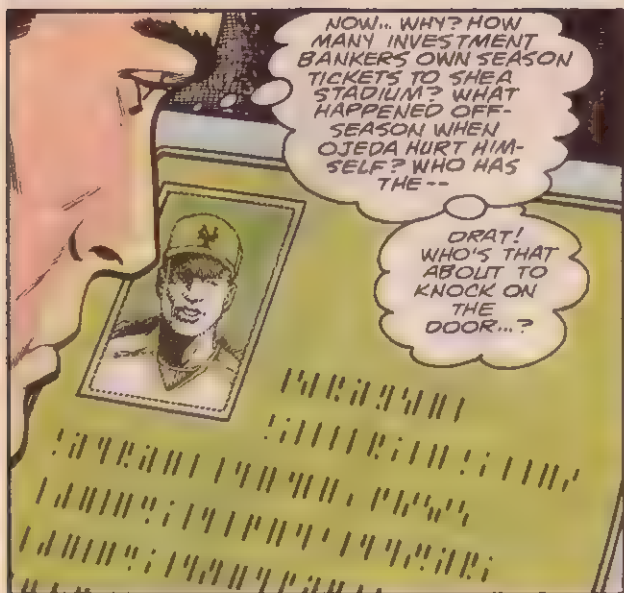
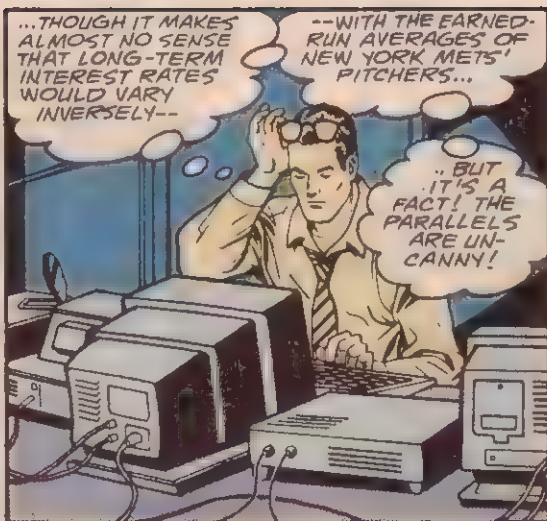
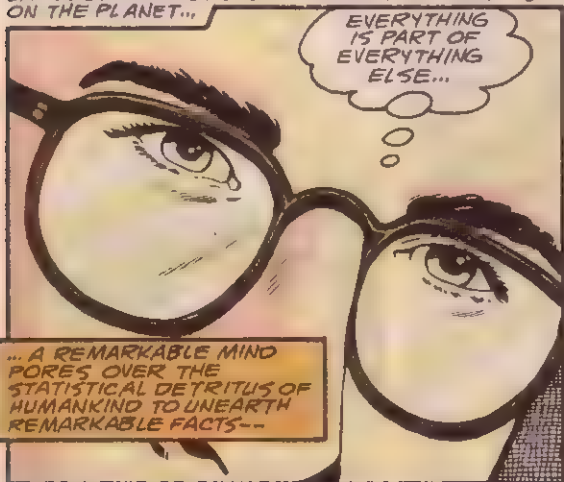
ROWNR!
R!

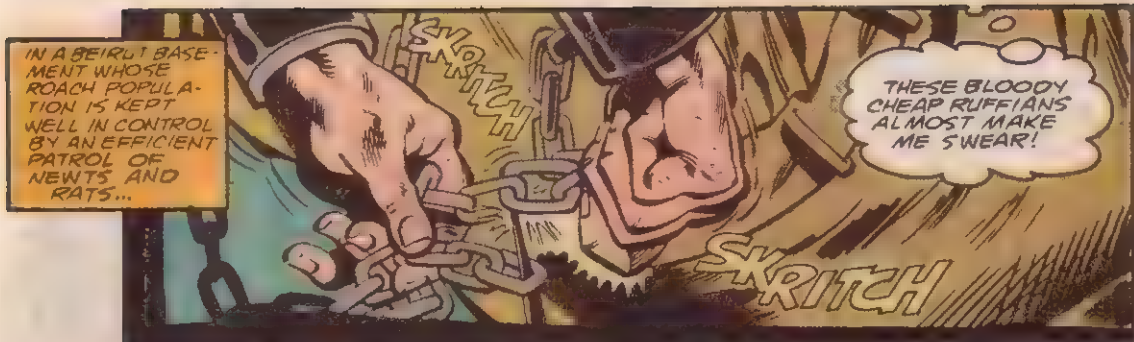
DON'T
MOVE, DAVY,
UNTIL--

--NOW!

BACK
TO
CAMP!
MOVE
IT!

IN AN APARTMENT AT THE CENTER OF ONE OF THE LARGEST AND DENSEST COLONIES OF HUMANS ON THE PLANET...





IN A BEIRUT BASEMENT WHOSE ROACH POPULATION IS KEPT WELL IN CONTROL BY AN EFFICIENT PATROL OF NEWTS AND RATS...

I COME TO NEGOTIATE THE HOSTAGES' RELEASE ...EVERY BLOODY THING ON THE TABLE...



I'VE GOT A CAUSE... YOU'VE GOT A CAUSE ...EVERYBODY'S GOT TO HAVE A CAUSE...



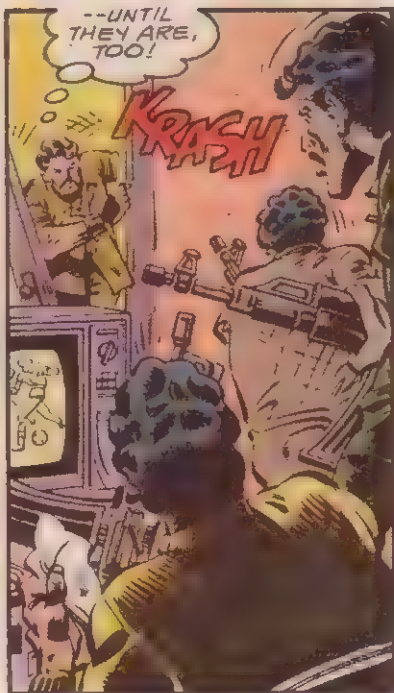
COULD YOU FIND THE BEANBALL TEAM ON THE SATELLITE? THE ONE WITH THAT FELLOW MOOKIE?



I KNOW THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR OTHER MEN BEING HELD SOMEWHERE IN THIS HOUSE...

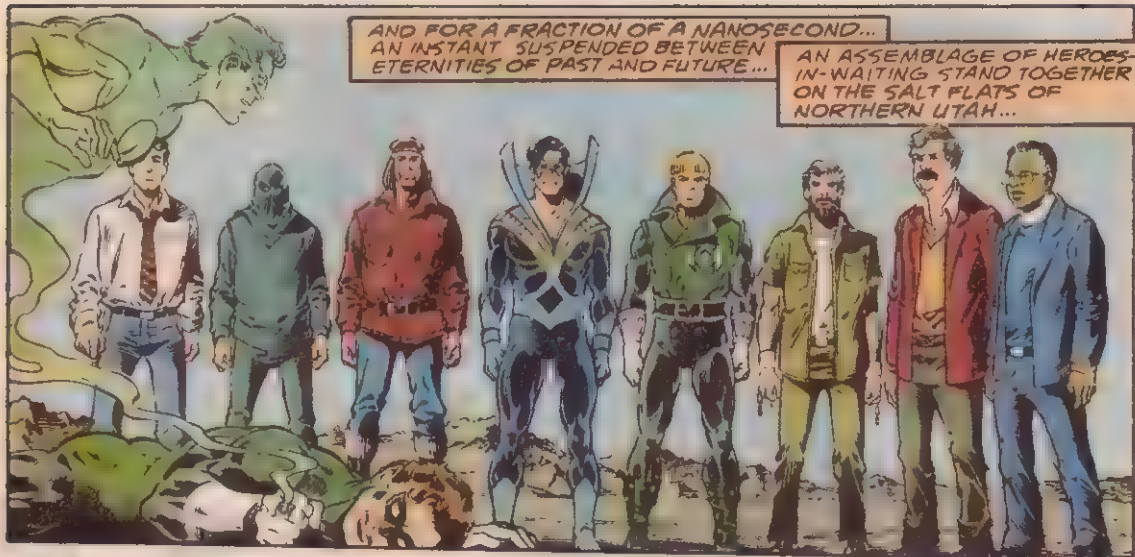


--UNTIL THEY ARE, TOO!



AND FOR A FRACTION OF A NANOSECOND...
AN INSTANT SUSPENDED BETWEEN
ETERNITIES OF PAST AND FUTURE...

AN ASSEMBLAGE OF HEROES-
IN-WAITING STAND TOGETHER
ON THE SALT FLATS OF
NORTHERN UTAH...



THESE...
THESE ARE
THE PEOPLE
I BEAT OUT
FOR THIS
JOB? I'D
FORGOTTEN
WHAT KIND
OF COURAGE
WALKED THIS
EARTH...

I THINK THIS
IS THE GUY
WHO JUMPED
ON THE VICE-
PRESIDENT THE
MOMENT HE
HEARD THOSE
SHOTS.

OH, I KNOW
WHAT'S GOIN'
ON HERE.

HELLO?

THE VALIANT NEVER
TASTE O'DEATH BUT
ONCE, EH?... 'CEPT
SOME OF 'EM GET
TO DECLINE THE
HONOR.

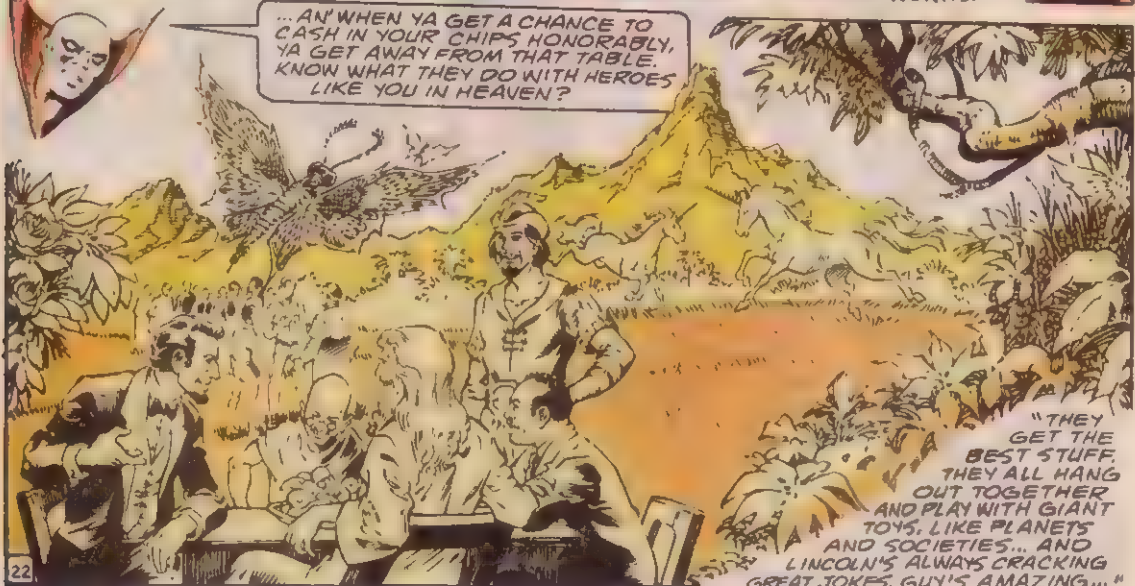
THIS TIME-SUSPENSION STUFF
DON'T AFFECT ME. I'M DEAD
...KINDA. LEAST I'VE BEEN
TRYIN' TA BE FER YEARS.

HERE'S WHERE THE HERO
GETS TO EITHER PICK HIS
SUCCESSOR...

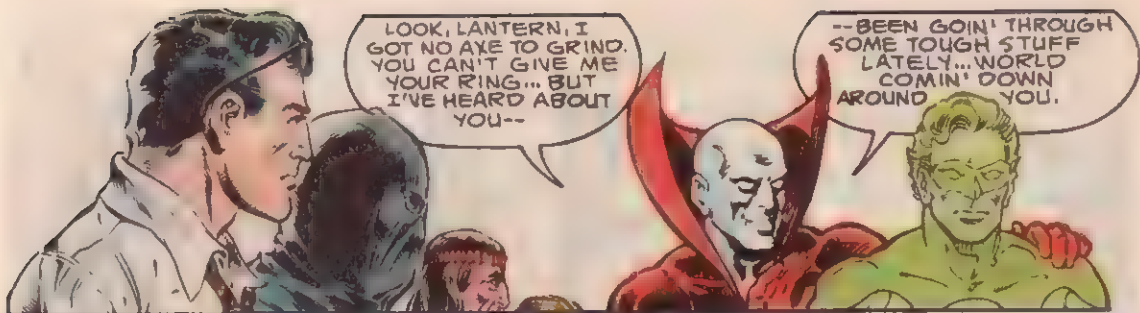
...OR GO BACK
AND FINISH THE
JOB, RIGHT?

WELL, LET ME TELL YOU,
HERO, THE JOB GETS
FINISHED. THAT'S HOW THE
UNIVERSE WORKS.

...AN' WHEN YA GET A CHANCE TO
CASH IN YOUR CHIPS HONORABLY,
YA GET AWAY FROM THAT TABLE.
KNOW WHAT THEY DO WITH HEROES
LIKE YOU IN HEAVEN?



"THEY
GET THE
BEST STUFF
THEY ALL HANG
OUT TOGETHER
AND PLAY WITH GIANT
TOYS, LIKE PLANETS
AND SOCIETIES... AND
LINCOLN'S ALWAYS CRACKING
GREAT JOKES. GUY'S AMAZING..."



LOOK, LANTERN, I GOT NO AXE TO GRIND. YOU CAN'T GIVE ME YOUR RING... BUT I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU--

--BEEN GOIN' THROUGH SOME TOUGH STUFF LATELY... WORLD COMIN' DOWN AROUND YOU.



IT'S HARDLY LIKE YOU'D BE AFRAID O' DEATH LIKE SOME GUYS, RIGHT? DON'T GET CAUGHT LIKE M--

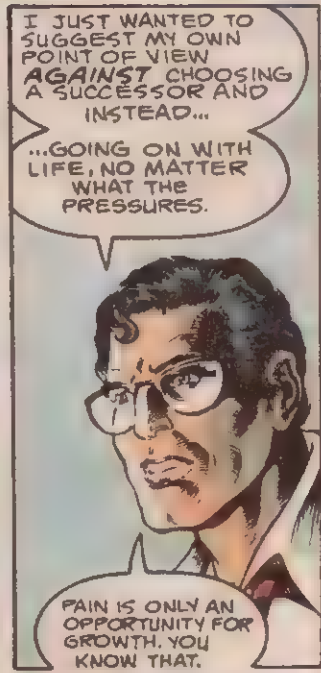
EXCUSE ME...?



...BUT I COULDN'T HELP OVER-HEARING YOU.

FOR--UMM ...SOME REASON, I'M SPEEDED UP SO THE TIME DILATION YOU MENTIONED DOESN'T AFFECT ME EITHER.

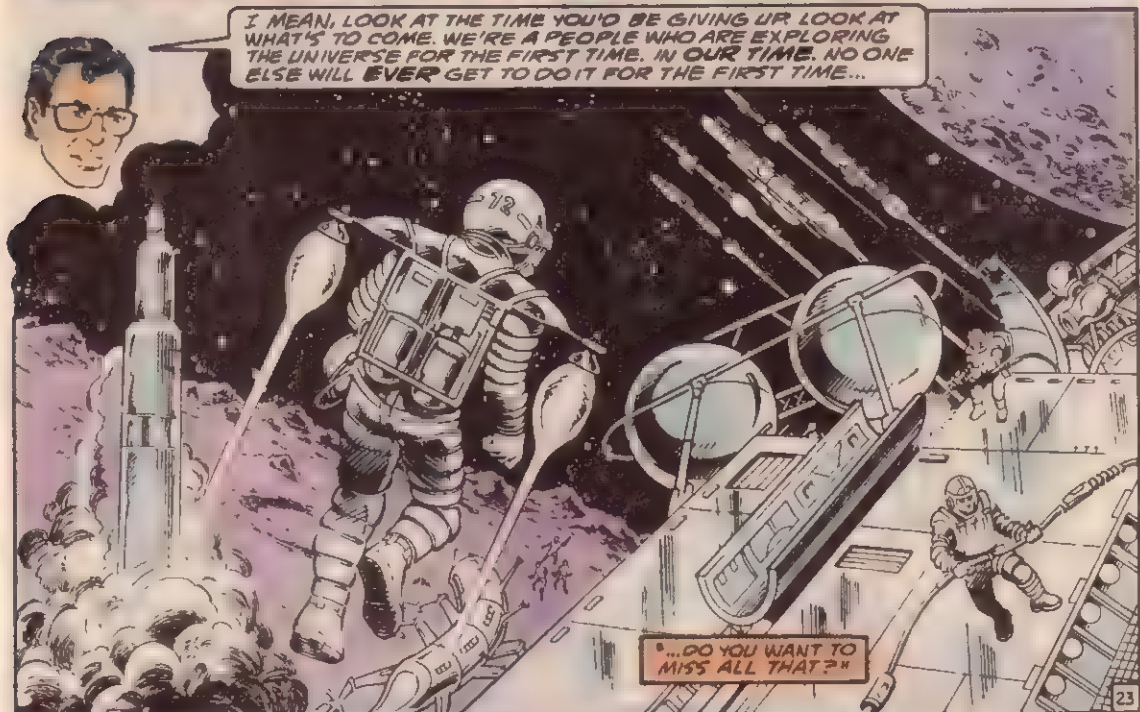
I'M CLARK KENT. I INTERVIEWED YOU ONCE.



I JUST WANTED TO SUGGEST MY OWN POINT OF VIEW AGAINST CHOOSING A SUCCESSOR AND INSTEAD...

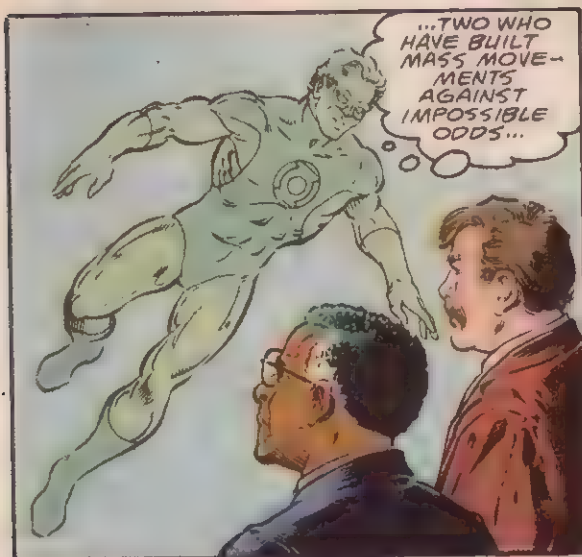
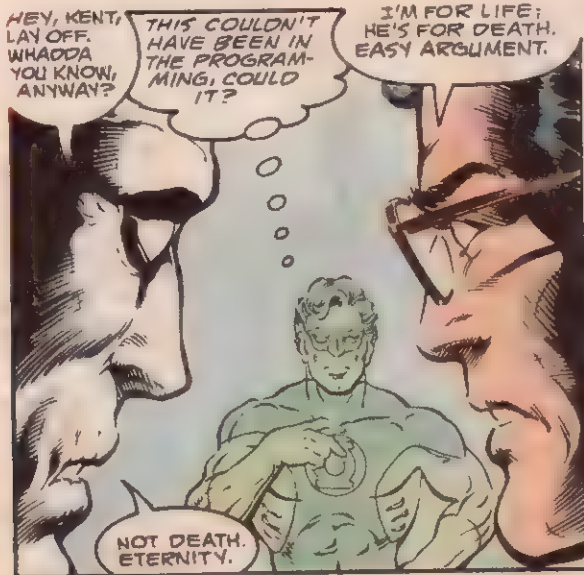
...GOING ON WITH LIFE, NO MATTER WHAT THE PRESSURES.

PAIN IS ONLY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH. YOU KNOW THAT.



I MEAN, LOOK AT THE TIME YOU'D BE GIVING UP. LOOK AT WHAT'S TO COME. WE'RE A PEOPLE WHO ARE EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN OUR TIME. NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER GET TO DO IT FOR THE FIRST TIME...

...DO YOU WANT TO MISS ALL THAT? H



--AS WAS MY OWN.
I HOPE THIS, BUT I
DOUBT IT.

ABIN SUR,
I KNEW
WE'D MEET
AGAIN.

I AM A
PROGRAMMED
RESPONSE TO
YOUR IMPENDING
DEMISE.

YOU MUST KNOW THAT ALL
THESE HERE WERE CANDIDATES
FOR YOUR POSITION, AS WELL
AS THESE OTHERS...

...A MAN OF GOD FROM THE
CITY OF MILAN WHO HAS SINCE
DIED--AN ARCHITECT FROM
AMONG YOUR OWN NATION
WHO HAS LEFT THE PLANET
--AND YOURSELF

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST JOHN
AND GUY. I'D FORGOTTEN...YOU
CHOSE ME OVER THEM.

IT IS SELDOM THAT ONE WHO
IS BOTH FEARLESS AND
SCRUPULOUSLY HONEST
COMES TO GREAT POWER.

YOUR SELF-
DOUBT PRE-
CLUDES YOUR
CORRUPTION.
SURELY YOU
HAVE ACHIEVED
NOT ONLY
POWER, BUT
GREATNESS
AS WELL...

...BUT I WAS LOST THROUGH
LACK OF WILL, CERTAINLY YOUR
SELF-DOUBT HAS BROUGHT
YOU TO THIS CROSSROADS.

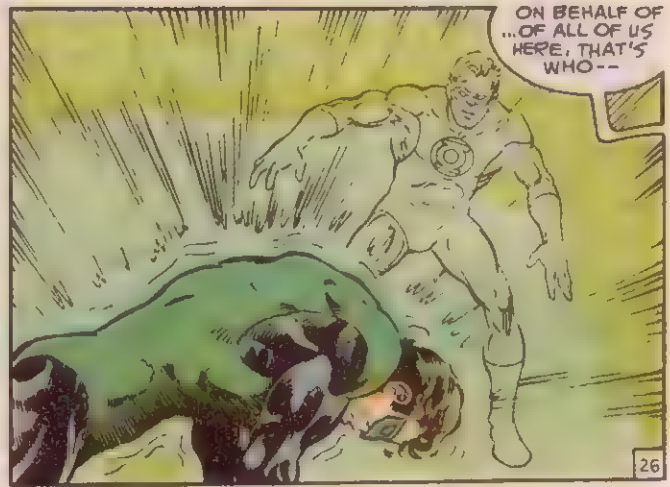
AS USELESSNESS AGAINST
THE COLOR YELLOW IS A
NECESSARY IMPURITY OF THE
RING, SO DO YOU TERRANS ALL
HAVE AN IMPURITY--
YOUR **SELF-DOUBT**.

YOU MUST NOW DECIDE
WHETHER TO SURMOUNT YOUR
SELF-DOUBT, OR CHOOSE
AMONG THESE **LESSER**
WILLS TO CONTINUE...

LESSER
WILLS...

...THAN
MINE?

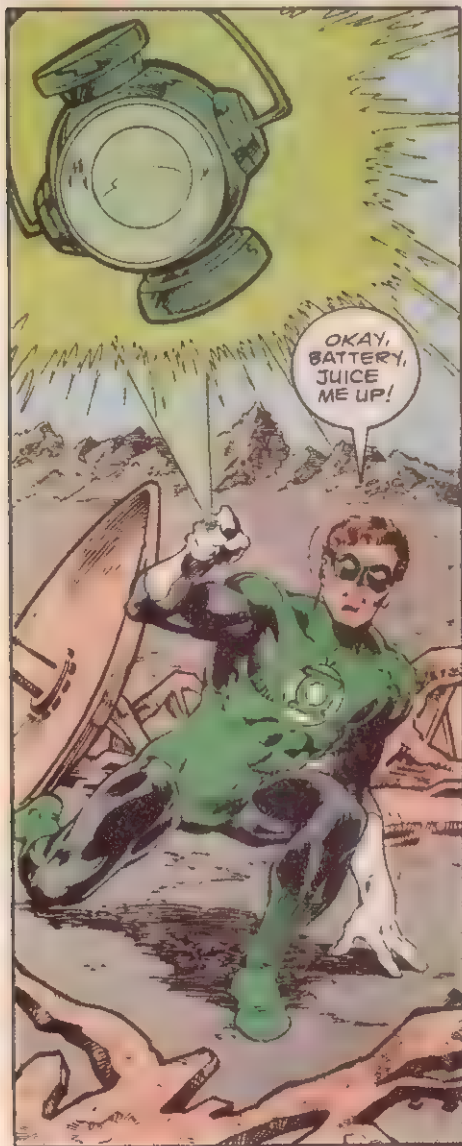
THESE
GUYS?



YOUR ARGUMENT'S
A LOSER, KENT!

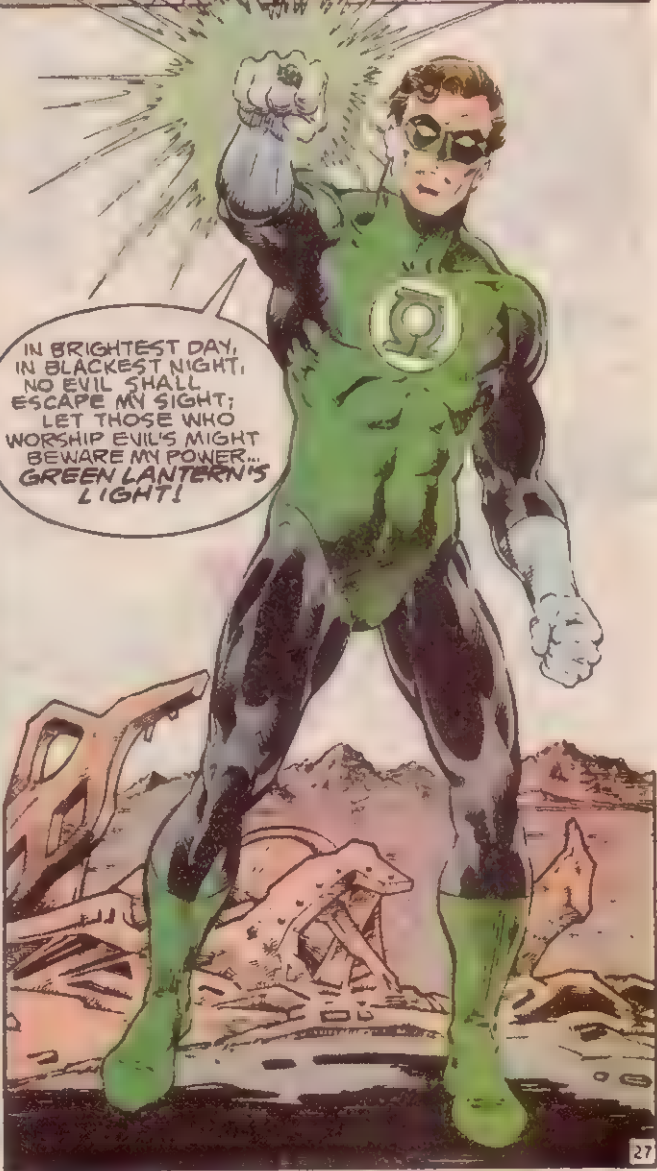
AND IT
LOOKS LIKE
YOURS IS--
UM, DEAD
IN THE
WATER.

ENOUGH
OF THIS
NONSENSE...

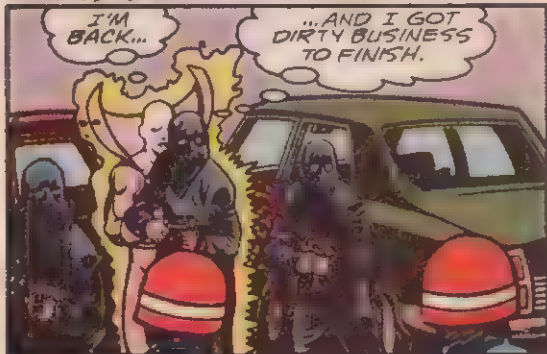


OKAY,
BATTERY,
JUICE
ME UP!

IN BRIGHTEST DAY,
IN DARKEST NIGHT,
NO EVIL SHALL
ESCAPE MY SIGHT;
LET THOSE WHO
WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT
BEWARE MY POWER...
**GREEN LANTERN'S
LIGHT!**



IN LONDON, ONE OF THE GUNMEN, BODY POSSESSED BY ANOTHER AND KIDNAPPED IN THE PROCESS, IS GONE FOR NOT EVEN A WINK AS...



CHAPTER IV: THE REST OF THE WORLD

AS ANOTHER INFINITELY MORE POWERFUL AND DECIDEDLY ANGRIER BOLT OF GREEN GATHERS ITS RIGHTEOUSNESS HIGH OVER UTAH'S DESOLATION...

THE HELICOPTER'S ROTORS LEFT A RESIDUE OF AIR TURBULENCE IN ITS WAKE...

...AND IN THE HIGH DESERT AIR, TRACING A SMALL LOW-PRESSURE TROUGH LIKE THAT...

...IS AS EASY AS KEY LIME PIE.

SIMILARLY, AFTER A NANO-SECOND PASSES IN THAT NORTHERN SEAPORT CITY IN EUROPE...

THE OLD MAN WILL BE REINSTATED TOMORROW WITHOUT A FUSS.

YOU WOULD NOT MAKE ANY FUSS, WOULD YOU?

I WOULD NOT THINK OF IT...

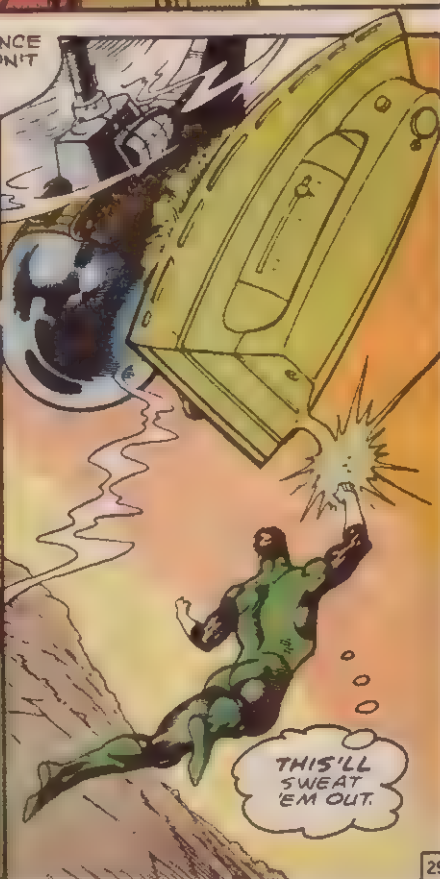
...ASSUMING YOU REINSTATE THE TEN-HOUR DAY RULE.

OF COURSE. AS SOON AS I RETURN TO MY DESK. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE IS MORE I CAN DO FOR YOU--

MAJOR, RADAR INDICATED A SMALL OBJECT APPROACHING UNTIL A MOMENT AGO, BUT IT DISAPPEARED.

JUST CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE AS FAR AS I CAN SEE. DON'T GET WUSSY OVER WIND SHEAR, SOLDIER.

YES, SIR.



IN THE
MIDDLE
EAST...

IT IS THE
NEGOTIATOR!

BLOW
HIM
DOWN!

WHAT
IS THAT... A
WEAPON?

A WESTERN
SECRET DEVICE!

YOUR
ASSO-
CIATES
SEEM
TO HAVE
TAKEN THEIR
LEAVE. CARE
TO NEGOTI-
ATE THE
RELEASE OF
THE OTHER
PRISONERS
HERE?

PLEASE... DO
NOT HURT ME... I
WILL GET THE KEYS--

WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE? WHAT'S
WRONG WITH THE
FUSELAGE WALL?

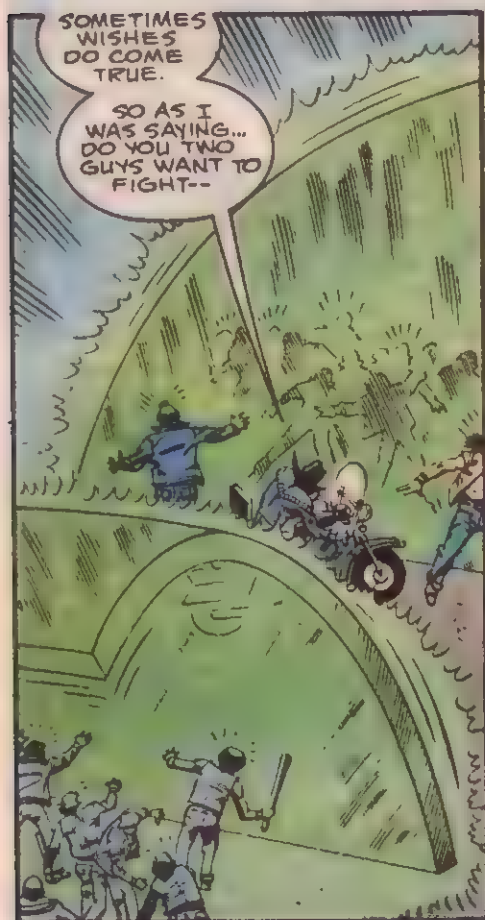
I DON'T
KNOW, MAJOR, SIR,
BUT I
THINK IT'S...

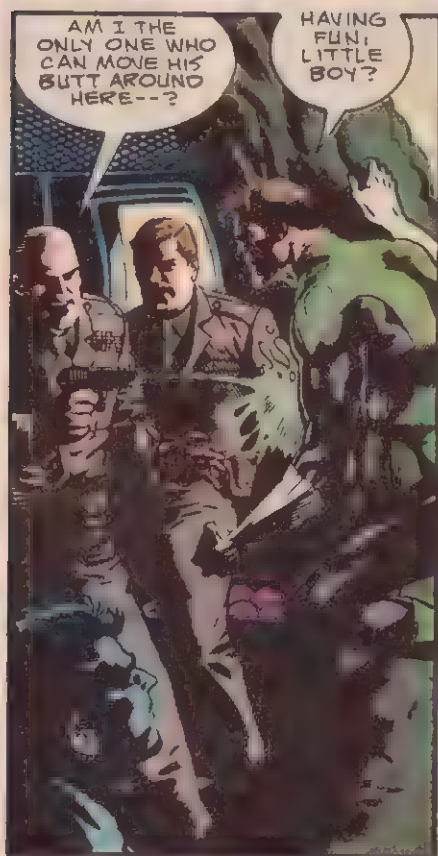
...MELTING?

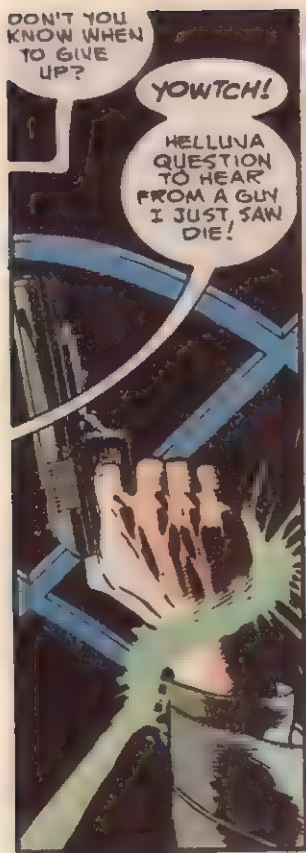
IT'S THE
GUN WITH
THE RING!
BATTLE
STATIONS--

GET OFF YOUR
BUTTS AND TAKE
UP BATTLE
STATIONS--

-- YOU BUNCH OF...
CIVILIANS!







DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP?

YOWTCH!

HELLUVA QUESTION TO HEAR FROM A GUY I JUST SAW DIE!



NOW, MAJOR... I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR IDENTIFICATION, PLEASE.

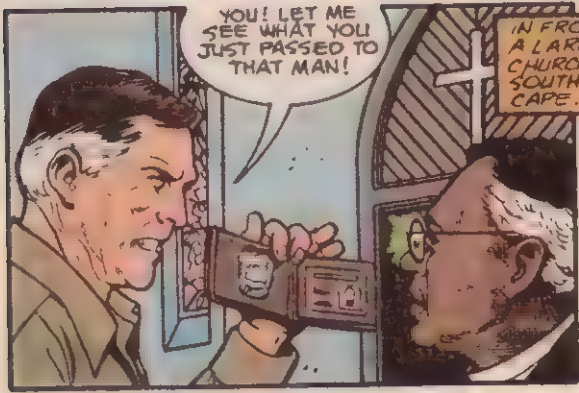
ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME YOUR I.O. OR NOT?

NO, NO, I'M NOT.

YOU THREE! TAKE HIM OUT!

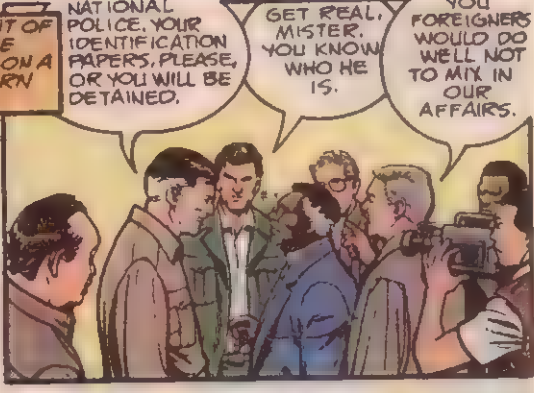


WELL, THAT'S GOOD NEWS...



YOU! LET ME SEE WHAT YOU JUST PASSED TO THAT MAN!

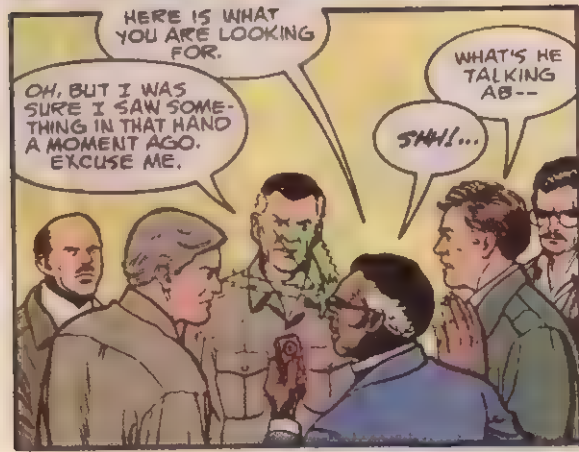
IN FRONT OF A LARGE CHURCH ON A SOUTHERN CAPE...



NATIONAL POLICE, YOUR IDENTIFICATION PAPERS, PLEASE, OR YOU WILL BE DETAINED.

GET REAL, MISTER. YOU KNOW WHO HE IS.

YOU FOREIGNERS WOULD DO WELL NOT TO MIX IN OUR AFFAIRS.

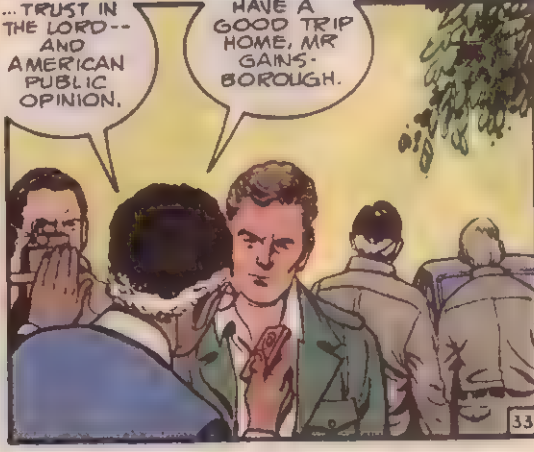


HERE IS WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.

OH, BUT I WAS SURE I SAW SOMETHING IN THAT HAND A MOMENT AGO. EXCUSE ME.

WHAT'S HE TALKING AB--

SHH!...



...TRUST IN THE LORD-- AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION.

HAVE A GOOD TRIP HOME, MR GAINS-BOROUGH.



I SUGGEST
YOU COMPLY
BEFORE YOU
LOSE MORE
ALTITUDE,
MAJOR...

...BECAUSE YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
THE FIRST ONE
TO HIT THE
GROUND!



PUT
ME DOWN!
IN THE NAME
OF THE
UNITED
STATES
GOVERN-
MENT!

SEEMS TO ME
I TALKED TO THE
GOVERNMENT JUST
THE OTHER
DAY...



...AND IT TOLD
ME IT'S GETTING
ANNOYED AND IT
WISHES YOU'D STOP
USING ITS NAME.

SOMEWHERE IN
THE MONTANA
BADLANDS...



IT...IT'S
LOSING ITS
TEETH AND
CLAWS!

SOMETIMES
MIRACLES
HAPPEN!

GRANDPA...
I'M STILL...
S-SCARED.



WELL, DAVY,
THAT'S THE NEXT
LESSON WE HAVE
TO WORK ON.

HERE,
HAVE A
SOUVENIR
MOUNTAIN
LION
TOOTH.

WELL, MAJOR, I'VE
GOT WHAT I WANTED.
WHAT WAS IT YOU
WANTED?

PUT
ME
DOWN!

ANYWHERE
SPECIAL? HOW
ABOUT...

... IN THE
MIDDLE
OF NO-
WHERE?

LAST ONE TO
SALT LAKE CITY'S
A ROTTEN
EGG!

DAMN!

IS HE
GONE
YET?



THE SHINING CITY ON THE HILL...

JUDGE, I BELIEVE IN THE LAW. I'VE FOUGHT FOR IT ALL MY LIFE...

NOW SEE HERE, LANT--

...AND TODAY, YOUR HONOR, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT WORK.

YOU CAN'T JUST PARADE IN HERE WITH YOUR MASK ON AND TELL ME TO SWEAR OUT A WARRANT...

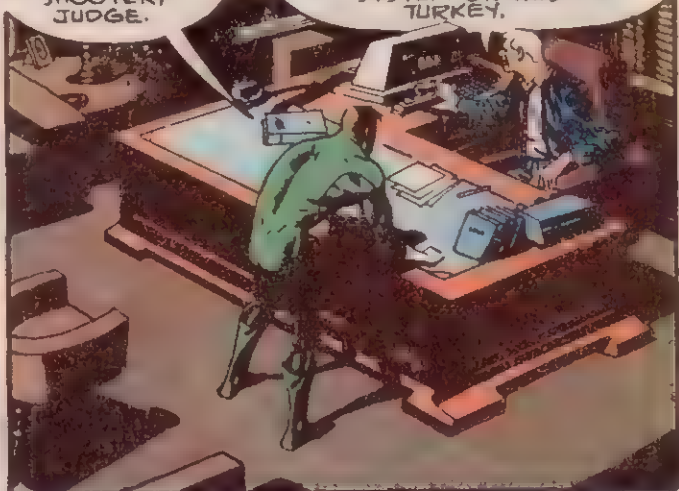
...AGAINST A HIGHLY-DECORATED OFFICER WHO'S--

...YOU'VE GOT A REPUTATION AS A REAL STRAIGHT-SHOOTER, JUDGE.

A GOOD POLITICIAN IS MORE LIKE IT. GIVE ME THAT I.O. AND LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN THE SYSTEM ON THIS TURKEY.



--WHO'S COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, NOT TO MENTION AGAINST ME. LISTEN...



ON A PIER OFF LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA...

OH, LOOK, THE LITTLE MAN MANAGED TO MAKE A PAIR OF ITTY-BITTY BOXING GLOVES AND--



WAM

--AND HOW'D HE MANAGE TO DO THAT?

I THOUGHT THIS GUY WAS AT LEAST GONNA PUT UP A FIGHT.



WELL, MAYBE THE GUYS IN THE BOAT HE'S WAITING FOR WILL BE MORE FUN...

...SOMETHING ABOUT PICKING UP A SHIPMENT OF NUKE STUFF FOR SOME COMMIE MOVEMENT IN ASIA MINOR.

--CROOKVILLE.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF... INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN ZAIRE FOR TWO YEARS... REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN... IN IRAN!?!

THIS BOY'S BEEN SOME WEIRO PLACES---SEEN SOME WEIRO STUFF!

WANT IT STRAIGHT, LANTERN? THIS GUY'S A HEAVY HITTER! I DO THIS THING AND HE COULD HAVE ME ASSASSINATED.

YOUR HONOR, THEN YOU'LL HAVE MY PERSONAL PROTECTION. ON MY HONOR.

YOUNG MAN, YOU JUST SAID THE MAGIC WORDS. HAND ME THAT PEN AND YOU'VE GOT YOUR WARRANT.

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT WORK.

AND FINALLY, IN A LITTLE APARTMENT IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS...

WELL, THE SCHOOL BAND HAS TO TAKE A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, SEE, AND...

I FEEL A SURGE OF ENERGY INSIDE ME... RESIDUE FROM THE GREEN LANTERN ENERGY I WAS EXPOSED TO, I'LL BET.

MORE POWER... THAT'S ALL I NEED. I'LL JUST SUPPRESS IT AND GET BACK TO HELP HAL IF I CAN.

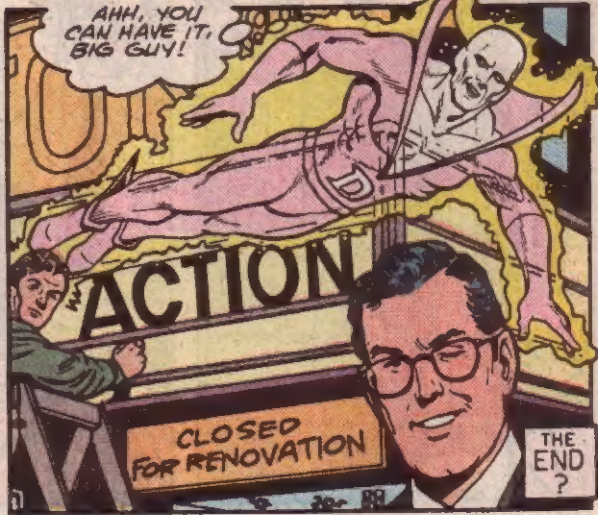
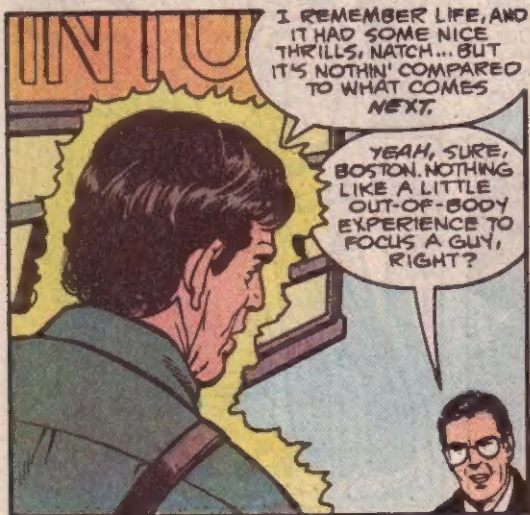
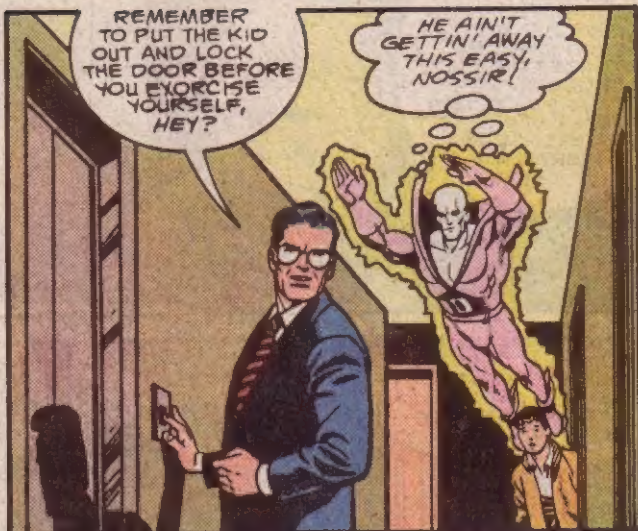
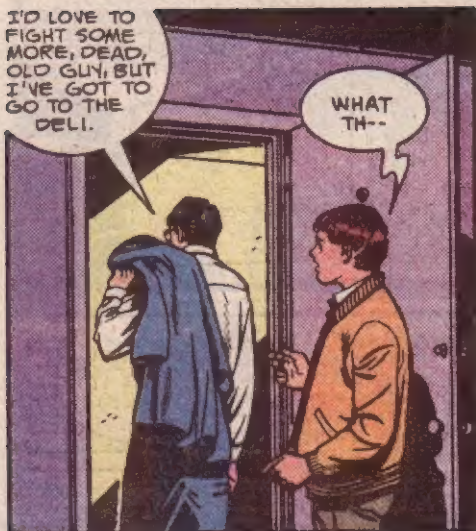
LOOK, I WAS JUST ON MY WAY OUT AND--

YOU DON'T NEED TO GO ANYWHERE, KENT. LANTERN'S TAKIN' CARE OF HIS PROBLEMS JUST FINE...

...BUT YOU AND I GOT A BONE TO PICK.

BOSTON BRAND? HERE? I'M HONORED.

DEADMAN TO YOU, KENT. NOW SUPERMAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE COULD CALL ME ANYTHING HE WANTED.





DC COMICS INC.

666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103
JENETTE KAHN President and Publisher
DICK GIORDANO V.P.-Executive Editor
MIKE GOLD Supervising Editor
ROBERT GREENBERGER Assoc. Editor
BRIAN AUGUSTYN Assoc. Editor
RICHARD BRUNING Art Director
TERRI CUNNINGHAM Mgr.-Editorial Admin.
PAT BASTIENNE Mgr.-Editorial Coordinator
BOB ROZAKIS Production Director
PAUL LEVITZ Executive V.P.
JOE ORLANDO V.P.-Creative Director
BRUCE BRISTOW V.P.-Sales & Marketing
MATT RAGONE Circulation Director
PAT CALDON Controller

L-3578

Dear Editor:

When I heard the news in comics fandom circles, I had hoped it was just a rumor. But no, as I see in this week's letter column, you're actually dropping the weekly anthology format for ACTION COMICS WEEKLY. ACTION was always an under-appreciated book (at least, where I live); personally, I had grown somewhat accustomed to reading ACTION COMICS WEEKLY each week. Here's hoping that more people will feel its loss once it's gone—very often, we don't realize what we have until we no longer have it.

Replacing it with a monthly ACTION comic featuring Superman is not the choice I would have made, however. How about a bi-weekly WORLD'S FINEST, with 10 pages each of Superman and Batman? Not in team-ups, mind you, but in separate solo stories—your top two characters every second week!

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, rest in peace. I eagerly await your next anthology title.

Doug Clark
1355 Hayne Rd.
Hillsborough, CA 94010

ACW,

About every four years I get into one of those moods where I just don't feel like voting. It seems that pathetic candidates breed apathy. After last week's elections, I want to thank ACTION COMICS WEEKLY for getting me back in the voting mood.

Even so, the choices are difficult. Instead of the best of two bad picks, I have to determine the best of six good choices.

Superman gets sixth, if for no other reason than that I've placed him at sixth for thirty-one weeks, and with eleven to go, I see no reason to change.

That leaves five. Blackhawk will take that place. Again no real reason.

Fourth will go to Green Lantern. I didn't like the way his boot turned white on the fourth page. Hey, I know it's lame, but at least I've got a reason.

Black Canary takes third place. It's taken eight weeks but at last I know what's going on in the dark.

Nightwing takes second. Since Dick Grayson has finally returned to his own strip I felt it only fitting to greet him with a high rating.

I got the feeling that I should know

Cassandra and Tala but by page eight I realized that it didn't matter if I knew them or not. Even with all the recent revelations about the Stranger, he still comes off as a stranger and I like that. I'm not a fan of Paul Kupperberg but he does have a good handle on the Phantom Stranger's character. Good work is rewarded with first place.

Ray Rizer
422 Oak
Elwood, KS 66024-0026

Dear Brian,

Blackhawk topped the week's list, as usual, with a tightly plotted, naturally flowing tale. The mood and characterization were as ever enhanced by Rick Burchett's innovative work.

Phantom Stranger emerges in second place, more for its surprising guest stars than for the story itself. When the Stranger was re-introduced in the mini-series, I gave up all hope of seeing Cassandra Craft again. Dr. Thirteen was a welcome surprise.

Green Lantern enters in third for Mark Bright's Grell-ish pencils, and for Captain Atom's appearance. I thought the alien decided to stay on Earth for a while in the previous issue.

Superman remains at fourth, as the story continues to disappoint me. The concept of a Superman cult was a superb one, yet now it seems to have altered into a common hero vs. enemy race story.

Black Canary continues to display muddled confusion. Clarity should be stressed.

The Speedy tale falls in last place. Cherie Wilkerson demonstrates no great knowledge of the comics format, with haphazard plotting and panel descriptions. The characters merely seem to follow the action, without rationale or motivation. There is no flow (sorry).

To end on a more positive note, the Starlin Phantom Stranger cover reminded me of the power and potential of the weekly format. Let's see it realized.

Mark Lucas
66 Cleary Court #902
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Editor,

Well, thank you for the Nightwing cameo appearance in ACTION COMICS

WEEKLY #631. Next thing you know, you'll be saying Speedy will appear in his own series in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY. What? HE IS?!!! AAACK! Please understand that if you want to satisfy your customers, give them what they want. WE WANTED NIGHTWING, not the hog with the yellow hat. And one request: Exclude Nightwing's name from the polls, it is very obvious he doesn't deserve a low rating.

Please do not remove Nightwing from these pages until he gets his own monthly. Will he?

Arpana Patel
Plainville, CT

Funny, Marv Wolfman and I were talking about just that last week. Maybe someday ... but first there's a big story involving Dick and his friends, old and new.

Dear Sirs:

I would like to start out by saying that this, the letter you see before you, is the first I have ever written to DC Comics.

I was sad when I read the letters column in ACTION COMICS and found that the current format was being cancelled. This is the format in which comics started and is how I feel it is meant to be. This was particularly hard for me as it was the first issue of ACTION COMICS I have ever bought. I now realize that I have discovered it a little late.

This is the second time I have been victimized in this manner by you. I also loved the large format ADVENTURE COMICS. If you must return ACTION to its old format, then please bring back ADVENTURE in the same format and frequency (or even bi-weekly) as ACTION presently has.

Enough about the format and on to the material therein.

First I feel I must comment on Blackhawk. I concur with the man who wrote in and said it was refreshing to see some characters without the sterling morals of most. But I don't think it should be done with a character such as Blackhawk. I first became acquainted with Blackhawk in the pages of *Military Comics* from the forties, and this is not the same man.

Although Black Canary was also established in the forties, she is dealing with situations in modern times and I really enjoy it, but I do think this should be restricted to your mature-readers-

only books.

I have seen a black Green Lantern in a couple of your books and I find the character good, but Hal Jordan was the Green Lantern I've always known. I find it good that he is still active.

I've always found Superman a little over-exposed and I like him in his present short format, but the story itself seems to be lacking a little something.

Phantom Stranger is one I have always liked but never got to see enough of.

Nightwing and Speedy are a little hard to follow but it's probably because I've come in in the middle of the story.

I find the artwork good in all the stories but I was confused by Nightwing, and the Black Canary stories are a little harsh for this book.

Overall, I loved it. Thanks.

Charles Oren Tracy
Box 134, Swede Rd.
Cedarville, MI 49719-9013

O.K. Here's the story.

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY required the most work I've ever seen done on a comic book.

Luckily, we had a great deal of help: nearly DC's entire editorial staff, all of our production crew (above and beyond the call of duty; deepest thanks, BobRo and Company!), and a platoon of the most talented writers and artists in the known galaxy. And a few from places even further out.

And three guys without whom we would never have pulled it off: Bob Greenberger, who did the follow-through work on our 42 covers, Brian Augustyn, who did the lion's share of the coordination work, and Mark Waid, who provided constant and crucial back-up in all departments. Most of the major editorial decisions were made by the four of us in brain-storming sessions that, it should come as no surprise, were a great deal of fun.

Releasing 42 comics, all 48 pages, in 43 weeks (DC doesn't ship comics in the week between Christmas and New Year's) is a major feat, and one of which we're quite proud. The sales on this series were quite good—not as good as we might have hoped, but certainly more than sufficient to continue publication.

So why is this the last weekly edition? I'm glad you asked.

You've probably noticed DC has had some problems meeting its on-time shipping schedule. This has been the result of an incredible number of reasons—chief among them our unwillingness to drop in a hundred out-of-continuity fill-in issues by fill-in writers and fill-in artists at the drop of a hat. We've been working real hard to put the entire line back on schedule, and it is clear we cannot do so while operating under the pressures of producing a 48-page weekly.

We're going to stop, catch our breath, and slowly but surely come out with the same quantity of material—but in different forms. And, yes, we've got a new anthology in the works: the success of

ACW, such as it was, told us there is a place for an anthology comic.

In addition to the new anthology title, here's what will come out of ACTION:

BLACKHAWK premieres in its own title—labelled for mature readers, responding to comments received in this column. Marty Pasko and Rick Burchett continue on the series, and the first issue will be out in about two weeks.

GREEN LANTERN will next appear in an all-important Prestige Format mini-series, followed by a new monthly title, just in time to celebrate Hal Jordan's 30th anniversary.

DEADMAN will also be appearing in a Prestige Format series. Mike Baron's already written the first volume, and it's a doozy.

WILD DOG will be appearing in a 48-page special. Quite frankly, we'd probably be doing an ongoing Wild Dog title, if not for the fact that Max Collins and Terry Beatty are tied up in an important new DC project. But don't worry: you can't keep a good dog down.

SPEEDY and **THE DEMON** will be

appearing in their own comics format mini-series (serieses?); Speedy, of course, will continue to figure prominently in THE NEW TITANS ... and will be playing an important role in GREEN ARROW as well. Particularly in this summer's annual.

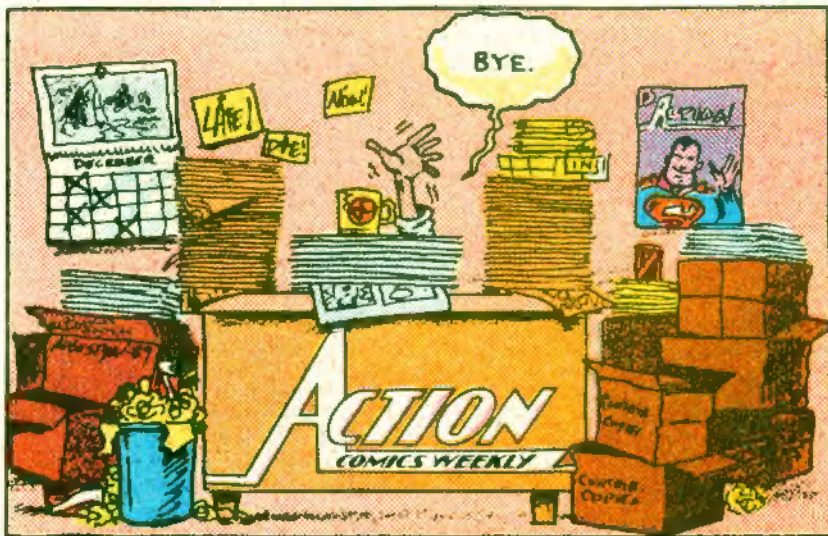
I mentioned our new anthology series. It's code-named ADVENTURE COMICS, but we can't truly promise that. We'll have to see how it shapes up.

And, after the all-Superman ACTION COMICS ANNUAL, our old friend George Pérez will be bringing The Man of Steel home, to ACTION COMICS #643. You'll see it in the stores in a couple of months (remember, I said we were going to be buying ourselves some time).

If you didn't like everything we ran in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, well, join the crowd: the beauty of an anthology is its diversity, and ACW certainly was diverse. We didn't try to be all things to all people, and we're proud of that, too.

We thank you for your support, and we'll see you in the funny papers.

Sincerely,
Mike Gold



COMING SOON

